

Chief Re  
Punjab  
Chandigarh  
Sabha









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Chief Reporter.  
Punjab Vidhan Sabha  
Chandigarh

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PRINTED FOR SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, EAST PUNJAB, SIMLA.

By J. RAY & SONS LIMITED, SIMLA.

1949.



# East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

7th March 1949

VOL. III—No. 10

## OFFICIAL REPORT



Chief Reporter.  
Punjab Vidhan Sabha  
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# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 7th March 1949.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock.*

*Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## REFERENCE TO LATE SHRIMATI SAROJINI NAIDU

**Premier** (The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I rise with a heavy heart to place on record our deep sense of grief and sorrow at the irreparable loss India has sustained by the passing away of one of her greatest and noblest daughters, Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces. The services and sacrifices of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu in the cause of freedom and liberty of India are too well known and need no description from me. Her name will ever be remembered and honoured not only in this country but throughout the world as a great patriot, politician, orator, poet and administrator. She had an unsurpassed personality and charm which won over and endeared her to all who had the good fortune of coming in contact with her. Within the Congress she attained the highest position and was President of the Indian National Congress. Her labour for the country's freedom could not have found a better appreciation than her being appointed as one of the Governors after the country's attainment of freedom. She was the Governor of one of the biggest Provinces of the Indian Dominion and this post she held with great success as is shown by the appreciative references made by the Ministers and the public of that Province. By her death a void has been created which it will be difficult to fill.

**Shrimati Sita Davi** (Ex.-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, it is with a sense of deep sorrow that I rise to pay my humble tribute to the memory of our beloved sister, late Shrimati Sarojini Naidu. Our Country has really been most unfortunate in sustaining a great and irreparable loss by the sad demise of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu. She was one of those soldiers of Indian freedom who before the achievement of freedom, day in and day out went on struggling in the battle field of real freedom. She was not found wanting at the time of facing difficulties and hardships in the struggle of her country's freedom, and like a brave soldier she would always be in the fore-front. Not



*Shrimati Sita Devi*—contd.

only our country but also the whole world feels proud of the sacrifices which she made for the attainment of National Freedom. To-day the whole world is grief-stricken and is mourning over this irreparable loss. Our worthy sister was really a pride of India. She possessed all the good qualities that go to the making of great leaders of the World. She was a great poetess of gifted imagination and her patriotism rose to poetic heights. In fact she infused art and poetry into our national struggle. This is not all. She was a great orator. People were so much ascinated with her speeches that they would often forget themselves while hearing her speak in pin-drop silence. There are very few orators of her type to be found in our country, nay in the whole of the world.

The late Shrimati Sarojini Naidu was a close associate of the father of the Nation. She was also a firm believer in the Gandhian gospel of truth and non-violence. In 1925 she was elected President of the Indian National Congress (Kanpur Session.) Since then she had continued to be the member of the Congress Working Committee. Besides this our worthy sister, Sarojini Naidu, had the privilege of representing her country in London, where she advocated the cause of Indian women. She had rendered the greatest service to the women of her country. In fact she was one of those few women in our country, nay in the entire world, who made such biggest single contributions to the awakening of the women-folk of her country. She often felt that although a good deal of work had been done for the welfare of Indian womanhood, yet much more remained to be done in that direction. She was the greatest champion of the rights of Indian women and she had great regard and respect for them. Here I am reminded of an instance when, in her message to all India Women's Conference (Gwalior Session), she expressed her inability to attend the conference because of her previous engagement in connection with the convocation. She expressed her whole-hearted sympathy with the conference and further added that though she could not be present there physically yet her heart was with them. This is not all. In her very first speech when she was elevated to the Governorship of the United Provinces, I quite remember her remarks, she said that she was not there as the Governor of the United Provinces but that she had become the Governess of the children of the United Provinces.

She was the first among our Sisters to be appointed as Governor of the United Provinces, and there could be no better appreciation of her services than this. She had done much more than the British Governors did during the tenure of their office. In fact our sister as Governor discharged her duties with zeal and ability and surpassed them all.

At this critical time, when we have already achieved freedom, the greatest need of the hour is to have amongst us such worthy sisters who would give a splendid lead to our country. Her death is a great loss to our country. It is really a great misfortune for the people of India to have lost such a great personality. But inscrutable are the ways of providence and we have no other recourse except to resign ourselves to the will of the Almighty. Great and grave responsibilities have fallen on our leaders. We should rise equal to the occasion and shoulder our responsibilities with fortitude. With these remarks, Sir, I pay my humble tribute to the memory of the late Shrimati Sarojini Naidu. May her spirit hover over us and bless us with courage to bear the loss!

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, It is our greatest misfortune that our *Mata* Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has departed from us for ever, leaving us orphans. From early age, she had dedicated her life to the cause of her country – a cause so noble and high, yet how difficult of achievement and exacting! Her services to and sacrifices for that cause are really so splendid that few of us can hope to equal her even in lives to come. Hers was a many sided career and there is hardly any sphere of activity in which she did not shine. For juniors like us, she was a veritable mother and we had the same respect for her as children have towards their mothers. I remember very well the first occasion when I had the privilege of her darshan. It was in the year 1919 or 1920. Hon. Members know very well that it was the time of great political ferment in the country. We met her at the Railway Station, when she was leaving Lahore. The Late Sir Fazal-i-Hussain was also present there.

As I have already stated, Shrimati Sarojini Naidu devoted all her energy and talent to the cause of the emancipation of the motherland. Her whole life was spent in its service and is one long struggle for freeing it from foreign yoke. For success in this mission of her life, she considered the removal of disunity and discord among its people an essential condition. She was fortunate in that she lived to see the fulfilment of the work which she and many others had made their life mission. Her death is a very sad occasion for us because our need of leaders like her is not less to-day – leaders who can help our country to advance further and further. Our *Mata* Sarojini was an embodiment of sacrifice, 'tyag' and 'tapasya'. She was such a talented and gifted lady as can be the pride of any country of the world. We associate ourselves with our brethren in the neighbouring province in their grief over her sad demise and pray to the Almighty to grant her soul

peace and rest. We also sympathise with her relatives over this bereavement.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing North-Western Towns, General, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I associate myself with the condolence resolution moved by the hon. Premier and pay my humble homage to the Mother who has departed from us for ever. She was Governor of a neighbouring province and it is but natural that the people of this province should grieve over her death. But we mourn her loss not because she was a successful Governor but because for us she was one of the Generals of the Army of which we are but humble soldiers. It is for this reason that I pay my homage to her memory. There are very few instances of women occupying the office of Governor even in the most advanced countries. Possibly one or two women might have got such an opportunity in this democratic age. At any rate, in our country the view prevailed- and for quite a long time- that women could not prove as capable as men so far as the work of administration was concerned. This mother of ours fought as a soldier in the battle of freedom side by side with men and took an active part in the political struggle and proved thereby that Indian women were in no way inferior to women of other countries in political and administrative spheres. To be a successful Governor of the largest province in India, is an achievement of no mean order. Very few Governors have performed their duties as efficiently as she did.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, only a nightingale like Sarojini could befit the gardens in which Tan Sen had sung; the women of the land, the men of which had produced Tagore, could complete the necklace of the resplendent gems, only by giving to it a queen of poetry like Sarojini; only Sarojini's voice could be a clarion-call to the lovers of freedom fighting under the generalship of one like Mahatma Gandhi.

Who knows why Providence has become so wrathful towards our land that the icy hands of Death have snatched away so many of our gems from us in so short a time? Is it because God's Paradise has fallen slave that the General with altogether new methods of fight for liberation needs his comrades so urgently there? Had it been in our power we would have taught Him a lesson for ruining others' home to build one's own.

Sarojini! we, who are indebted to you for ever, can only pray, "Wherever you be, rest in peace. May your place be distinguished amongst the noblest souls!"

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, *Urban*): Sir, by the sad demise of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu India has lost one of its noblest souls. She was a most cultured and educated lady who dedicated her whole life to the service of the country. Her oratory was fearless and by that she kept her audience spell bound. By her various acts and services she raised the name and prestige of India and Indian womanhood throughout the world. Sir, I associate myself with the condolence resolution moved by the hon. Premier.

**Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal** (Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, It was before dawn that the news of *Mata* Sarojini's death spread in Delhi. On hearing it, we felt as though a great cataclysm had overtaken our country. It seemed as if our real mother were dead. A number of hon. Members have already expressed feelings like this. We have feelings of deep sorrow at the death of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu. She has died at the age of 70 years and had dedicated her whole life to the service of our motherland. If she had been spared for a few years more, she would have continued to serve her country with superb courage and indomitable spirit as was characteristic of her whole life. She was a Bengali woman and was married in Madras. She did not believe in the caste system but was of the view that the highest type of culture transcended all barriers of class, creed, caste and colour. Bengali was her mother tongue and besides this she could speak with fluency Madrasi language. Apart from knowing Hindi, Urdu and Persian, she had a good command over the French. When she visited England and America, she delivered speeches in English. Her eloquence and beautiful expression created a profound effect upon the people. She was hailed in England by discerning critics as one of the few great orators in the world. She has raised the glory and prestige of India in the foreign lands by her inspired speeches and almost divine words. She spoke in English as few Englishmen could do - so sweet and graceful was the charm and music of her eloquence. She played a great part in raising the prestige of women in her lifetime. Some years back when the Students' Conference took place at Lahore, I was asked to persuade Shrimati Sarojini Naidu to preside over the function and when I wrote to her on this subject, she readily acceded to my request. She did not feel any hesitation to rub her shoulders with the common man. She was a close associate and one of the foremost followers of Mahatma Gandhi whose confidence, esteem and affection she enjoyed to an unrivalled degree. As an orator she had hardly an equal and on the occasion of the close of the All India Congress Session, the big leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were impelled to request Shrimati Sarojini Naidu



*Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal—contd.*

to deliver a thanks-giving speech as her utterance possessed unique effect and carried weight with the public. Though she is no more amidst us, yet her inspiring utterances and songs will remain as imperishable legacy which the world will cherish for a long time to come. We feel desolate and grief-stricken but as the great poet Ghalib says :—

गालवे खसता के बगैर कौनसे काम बंद हैं ।

रोईये ज़ार ज़ार क्यों कीजिये हाय हाय क्यों ॥

ਜ਼ਾਲਵੇ ਖਸਤਾ ਕੇ ਬਗੈਰ ਕੌਨਸੇ ਕਾਮ ਬੰਦ ਹੈ

ਰੋਈਏ ਜ਼ਾਰ ਜ਼ਾਰ ਕਿਉਂ ਕੀਜਿਏ ਹਾਇ ਹਾਇ ਕਿਉਂ ॥

Her death is an irretrievable loss not only for India but also for the entire world as she was and will always remain to be a very great woman leader in the history of mankind. With these words, Sir, I pay my humble homage to the memory of the late Shrimati Sarojini Naidu.

**Shri Parbodh Chandra** (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, It has become customary to pay eloquent tributes and make feeling references to the memory of great men who depart from us for ever. But as I said on the occasion of the sad demise of Mahatma Gandhi last year that those who mourned his loss could do so only if they actually tried to imbibe his qualities, we should also keep in view the great sacrifices made by such great people in the cause of the country and try to follow in their footsteps. The death of such outstanding personalities always causes profound sorrow to millions of people but I would like to point out that mere expression of sorrow in most glowing terms would not be of any avail if we do not earnestly try to inculcate in ourselves all the goodness and virtues possessed by these dynamic personalities. Their life should always serve as an ideal for us to emulate. It is imperative for us that we should try to combine in ourselves their high qualities of head and heart and should faithfully adhere to their principles as taught and practised by them during their life time. We should try to carry on the programme in the same manner and with the same zeal as they had done during their life time. It will be in the fitness of things that we should remove all our shortcomings on account of which our province is lagging behind other provinces and should tread the path as shown by our beloved Mother Shrimati Sarojini Naidu. With these words, Sir, I pay my humble tribute to her memory and hope that we will all try to complete the unfinished task in our land which our beloved Mother Shrimati Sarojini Naidu had begun during her life time.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) : Sir, the whole of India today is mourning the very great loss which this unfortunate country on the very threshold of its freedom has suffered one after the other. We were yet mourning the loss of the father of the nation when this blow which is equally serious has now befallen our lot. Shrimati Sarojini Naiduji was one of those few talented and gifted ladies who voluntarily took upon themselves the task of acting as non-official Advocates of India at a time when India was very greatly maligned inside the country and abroad. More than the country itself the target of this criticism was the womanhood of India. Mrs. Naidu took the message of India which was of greatness and glory of womanhood, to every nook and corner of the world. Wherever she went she dispelled the clouds of suspicion and mis-representation which had been woven about India and her womanhood. India is rightly proud of her supreme sacrifices. In the cause of India's Freedom, she suffered like so many others. But the greatness about her was that she never lost the sweetness of her temper even at the most trying moments. All of us mourn this great loss. She was the pride of India and really effective was the message carried by her on behalf of us all, originally non-officially but later as the official spokesman of India. Her voice would have been heard with rapt attention in the counsels of the world if she had been spared to us. But alas she is no more with us and all of us are mourning this very great loss at this juncture.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal** (South Eastern towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, today we have to pay our homage to the memory of that great soul who spent the whole of her life in the service of our motherland and in that service rose from the position of an ordinary worker to that of the highest leader. She is no more amongst us. As some hon. Members have stated, she was called the mother of Indian nation. Ordinarily a mother is selfish and loves only her own children. Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, however, loved all the people as her children. Sometimes I thought that we had no right to call Shrimati Naidu the mother of the nation, but she used to tell people that everybody was as dear to her as her own child.

I had the fortune of seeing Shrimati Sarojini Naidu for the first time in 1920. At that time I could not believe that such a great personality could exist ever among women. I used to think that ladies would not do hard and difficult jobs. The example of Shrimati Naidu, however, inspired me. Her greatness lay not merely in rising to the highest place in the service of the country. She was also the embodiment of affection.

*Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal*—contd.

She was made the Governor of the biggest province in India. She was so capable that even if she had been appointed the Governor General of India, she would have discharged those duties with great ability and grace. It is not a very great thing to be the Governor of a province. Shrimati Sarojini Naidu's greatness can be judged from the fact that she became president of the Indian National Congress twenty-five years ago. At that time women in India were regarded as mere chattels.

The most remarkable thing about Mrs. Naidu was that she had very high ideals before her and had imbibed the true Gandhian spirit. She actually lived up to those high ideals. There was not a single session of the Indian National Congress in which she did not deliver one or more speeches. The only time she did not speak was during the last Congress session held at Jaipur. She was not keeping good health and looked weak. It appears to me that as people are not acting in accordance with the ideals laid down by Gandhiji, God wishes to remove his dear and faithful followers from amongst us. Shrimati Sarojini Naidu knew no communalism and hated those who looked at things from communal point of view.

The passing away of Shrimati Naidu, who was one of the closest associates and most faithful followers of Gandhiji has caused great sorrow in the country. Our feelings cannot be expressed in words and I can only pray to God to enable us to follow the path shown by her. I am proud of the fact that she was regarded as the mother of Indian Nation and that though a lady, she rose to be one of the topmost persons of the country. With these words, I pay my humble homage to her memory with the same affection with which she held the people of this country.

**Mr. Speaker :** Honourable Members, I join with you today in paying my tributes and homage to that great and brave lady who was regarded as the greatest of India's daughters of the modern age. If any one were to survey her career, he will be reminded of the great women of the past who had made name in the Indian history. Her career inspires the hope that in the future also India will produce such women who will be the pride of the motherland. She started as a poet and when India was groaning under the burden of the foreign rule, her poetry infused national consciousness in the hearts of young as well as old and made them fight for the freedom of their country. As an orator she kept the audience spell-bound not by using any bombastic words, but by her eloquence. These were her qualities on the artistic side of a woman. As regards her political career, there was something in her which incessantly kept her restless and which made her fight for the freedom of India. As a brave soldier in the struggle for freedom, she went to jail on a number of occasions even at the cost of her health. She had a very broad vision. She



was a highly educated and cultured lady and was above all prejudices of race or creed. As a mark of respect to that illustrious daughter of India, I would request the House to stand in silence for one minute.

*The House stood in silence for one minute.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Honourable Members, I would ask your permission to send this message of condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

*The House agreed.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Cases before the Special Inquiry Agency

**\*559. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) The cases taken up and challaned in the Court by the Special Inquiry Agency in connection with the Anti Corruption drive so far ;
- (b) The cases in which convictions have been made ;
- (c) The stage at which the enquiry against a highly placed officer of this Province stands and whether his case is likely to be placed before a Court ; if so, when ?

**The Honourable Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**

- (a) The Special Inquiry Agency is an investigating agency and is required to report on cases referred to it by the Anti-Corruption Committee. It cannot send up persons for trial.
- (b) Of the cases in which charges were investigated by the Special Inquiry Agency, Government decided to send up two persons for trial and their cases are still *sub judice*.
- (c) As no specific name is mentioned, I do not know to whom the Hon. member is referring. Even if the name were mentioned it would not be in public interest to supply the information asked for. Suitable action is taken in all cases in due course.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has there been any complaint against an I. C. S. man who was at one time a Deputy Commissioner of a District ?

**Premier :** I have already given the necessary reply.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :—** May I know whether or not an enquiry has been made against Mr. B. S. Grewal who was at one time Deputy Commissioner of District Ambala ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :—** May I take it that no reply is given if a complaint relates to a big officer ?

**Premier :—** I have said that action is taken in all cases in due course ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :—** Is some Deputy Commissioner also one of those against whom action is to be taken in due course ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :—** Is it the considered policy of Government that no questions are to be answered in this House which relate to officers ?

—————

**RESTORATION OF CONFISCATED PROPERTY TO PERSON SENTENCED FOR  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.**

**\*567 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether Government has under consideration the proposal to restore to the owners the property which was confiscated under orders of the court of persons who were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in 1st and 2nd Lahore Conspiracy cases of 1914-15 for political activities and offences by the Special Tribunals ;
- (b) the names of all such patriots whose properties were confiscated ;
- (c) What was the nature of the properties confiscated ;
- (d) Whether the confiscated properties have been sold or still stand in the name of the Crown ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Government have taken certain decisions with regard to restoration of confiscated property of those who were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for participation in National movements. Those decisions were embodied in a press note, a copy of which is laid on the table for ready reference. The claimants have been invited to prefer their claims to Government.

- (b) In response to the press-note 179 applications have so far been received. The names of the patriots whose properties were confiscated cannot be given because most of the records have been left behind in West Punjab.
- (c) (i) Agricultural lands (ii) Houses and shops (iii) Movable property and live stock (iv) Fines and (v) Pensions.
- (d) No information is available. Enquiries on representations received from claimants are being made wherever possible. The help of West Punjab Government to verify the claims from their records will be enlisted as and where required.

*Press Communique.*

Representations having been made by the sufferers for the restoration of confiscated property both movable and immovable, political pensions and jagirs and also for refund of fines levied under the previous regime for participation in national movement or as a result of conviction in political cases, Government have made the following decisions :—

1. Claims of persons, who suffered confiscation of property etc. during national movements after the Ist Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1913, shall be entertained.
2. "National movement" shall include Civil Disobedience, Akali and Babar Akali movements and such movement as Government may decide were "National Movements".
3. Where lands or landed properties, etc. had been confiscated and sold, only the sale proceeds of auctions shall be restored, after deducting actual expenses of sale.
4. Restoration could only be made in favour of those, who had actually suffered or their direct descendants but not collaterals.
5. Civil pensions that had been confiscated could only be restored in favour of the pensioners themselves and not their descendants. The restoration will be from the date of the order and not with retrospective effect.
6. The question of political pensions, military pensions including *Jangi Inams* is for the Dominion Government to decide.
7. Fines, where actually realised, shall be refunded to the actual sufferers or their direct descendants after deducting expenses incurred in their recovery.
8. Any claim put up to Government should be accompanied by documentary evidence of confiscation etc, and the amounts involved and each case will be decided on merits after considering documentary evidence that may be produced or may be available to the Provincial Government. It is obvious that any claims that cannot be properly verified from records, would not be admitted.

*Premier—contd.*

9. The question of actual restoration of lands or properties situated in West Punjab does not arise but any pensions from West Punjab, who had suffered confiscation of properties or pensions or fines during national movements, can put up their claims to Government for their consideration.

Persons whose cases fall under any of the above categories are advised to submit their applications containing full particulars of the case together with an affidavit attested by a first class Magistrate, that the contents of the application are true to the knowledge of the petitioner, to the Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab,

Sd/-M. R. Sachdev

Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab.

Dated August : 48

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is there no record with the Government which could help us in the finding out the names and addresses of the persons concerned?

**Premier :** We have no record.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** There must be some record with the C. I. D.

**Premier :** At the time of partition we were given no record by the C.I.D. of the United Punjab.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will any compensation be paid to those patriots who lost their health in the fight for independence

**Mr. Speaker.** Disallowed.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Did the Government take any steps to find out the names and addresses of such persons?

**Premier :** I have already stated that the decisions of the Government were notified in the press and as a result of that as many as 179 applications were received.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know how the Government is going to verify the correctness of the statements made in the applications.

**Premier :** From the official records that are available. The West Punjab Government will also be asked to supply the required information.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Only just now the Premier said that no records were available.

**Premier:** When applications are received efforts are made to trace the records from the district authorities.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Has any inquiry been made from the West Punjab Government about these cases?

**Premier:** I have already answered this question.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** After all we must find some way to trace the names and addresses.

**Premier:** I have answered.

UNDIGNIFIED LANGUAGE USED BY THE CLOTH INSPECTOR OF GURDASPUR  
AGAINST SHRI DEV DUTT AND OTHER CLOTH DEALERS.

**\*569 Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Nihal Chand, Cloth Inspector of Gurdaspur used most undignified language against Shri Dev Dutt, a cloth dealer of Dina Nagar on 19th September when Shri Dev Dutt met that Cloth Inspector to give the accounts;
- (b) Whether it is fact that the said Inspector called the businessmen generally cheats and swindlers;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the matter was reported to District Textile officer;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to make enquiries about this incident?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava;**

- (a) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

DELEGATION OF GOVERNMENT GOING ABROAD TO PURCHASE  
MACHINERY ETC.

**\*580. Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

**Shri Prabodh Chandra**—contd.

- (a) Whether any delegation on behalf of the East Punjab Government is going abroad to purchase machinery required by the Government;
- (b) Who are its members;
- (c) Whether there is any member of this delegation who is a technical expert;
- (d) The estimated cost on this delegation?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) The matter is under consideration, but no decision has yet been taken.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Should it be decided to send the delegation, it would be accompanied by a technical expert.
- (d) Does not arise.

HUNGER STRIKE OF PRISONERS IN YOLE CAMP.

**\*582 Thakur Dalip Singh.** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether all or some of prisoners in the Yole Camp (Kangra) are on hunger strike, if so, since when and the reasons therefor.
- (b) What action, if any, the Government proposes to redress the grievances of the prisoners and end this hunger strike.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:-**

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF FEES  
IN CASE OF REFUGEE STUDENTS.

**\*600. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the Hon Premier be pleased to state whether any instructions for the exemption from payment of fees in case of the refugee students in the schools have been issued recently, if so, the details thereof?



**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:-**

A copy of the instructions so far issued is laid on the table.

*Instructions regarding exemption from payment of fees in cases of refugee students*

Extract [Para 8 from C.M. No. 5448-G dated 1st April, 1948, from the Director of Public Instruction, East Punjab, Simla to the Principals of all affiliated Colleges in the East Punjab and Inspectors and Inspectresses of schools in the East Punjab.

8. Students reading in schools from class V to Class X may be given a free grant not a loan upto a maximum of Rs. 75/ in the high classes and Rs. 50/ in the middle classes for books, apparatus, stationery etc., in addition to exemption from payment of school fees and examination fees.

Extract (Para 1) from C. M. No. 9726-G dated 20th May, 1948 from the Director of Public Instruction, East Punjab, Simla to the principals of all affiliated colleges and the Inspectors and Inspectresses of Schools in the East Punjab.

1. Students who have applied for loans or free grants under the loan Scheme and whose application have been duly forwarded with the recommendation of the head of the institution may be allowed not to pay fees until their applications have been dealt with by this office.

Extract (Para 1) from Memo No. 14781-G dated 8th July, 1948, from the Director of Public Instruction, East Punjab, Simla to the Inspectors and Inspectresses of Schools in the East Punjab.

Sanction is hereby accorded to the remission of the admission fee of Rs. 1 (Rupee one only) chargeable under article 119 of the Punjab Education Code, 11th Edition, in the case of the refugee students who joined the secondary department of the recognized schools in the East Punjab, after partition of the Province. In case it has already been charged, it should be refunded.

STAFF MAINTAINED AT THE OCTROI BARRIER SIMLA FOR TAKING DOWN NAMES ETC. OF VISITORS TO SIMLA.

**\*636 Shri Virendra:** Will the Hon : Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the names and addresses of all the visitors to Simla are registered at the octroi barrier, if so, the reasons therefor.
- (b) The total strength of staff maintained at the octroi barrier and the duties assigned to each one of them?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

In view of the fact that the Medical Inspection posts established at Tara devi and octroi barrier, Cart Road, Boileauganj, Simla, have been closed down with effect from the 28th February, 1949, it will not serve any useful purpose to collect the information desired by the hon. Member.



## BANNING OF COMMUNAL ORGANISATIONS.

**\*652 Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the Hon. minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government has received any instructions from the Central Government in connection with the banning of any communal organisation or organisations; if so, the names of such organisations?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:—**

First Part-The Provincial Governments are usually consulted by the Central Government in framing an All India policy with regard to action to be taken against bodies indulging in unlawful and illegal activities. No question of instructions to the Provincial Government arises in such matters concerning law and order which is a provincial subject.

Second part.-In pursuance of a co-ordinated All India policy the following organisations were declared unlawful:—

- (1) The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh.
- (2) The Muslim League, National Guards or Muslim National Guards
- (3) The Khaksars.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** What about the Akalis?

**Minister:** There is no such organisation as the Akalis.

## RECRUITMENT TO SERVICES ON COMMUNAL BASIS.

**\*653. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the recruitment to various services in the province is still made on communal basis.

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

No specific order have so far been issued regarding communal representation in services, although the matter has been under the consideration of Government. Pending a final decision of the matter the order issued in join Punjab continue to remain in force, and steps are taken to ensure that justice is done to all communities in the matter of recruitment.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state if the recruitment to services is made on communal basis or on the basis of merit?

**Premier:** Usually the appointments are made on the basis of merit. But some times the Hon. members themselves put pressure on us to do otherwise.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** Sir, may I take it that the hon. Ministers make appointments of incompetent persons under influence of member even though they know that the person that is being appointed is unfit?

**Premier:** A great effort is made not to yield but sometimes members try to exert great influence and propaganda is carried on in the press on the plea that I want to keep my Premiership at any cost. But so far as my recollection goes I have never yielded.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** The hon. Premier has remarked that the member exert pressure on him. May I know if this pressure increases with the approach of the session of the Assembly?

**Premier :** The hon. Member knows better about this matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Premier has pointed out that the communal proportion in the services is at present the same that existed in the United Punjab. But the proportion of muslims in the services, in the United Punjab was very large. May I know if that proportion is maintained even now?

**Premier :** My hon. friend should know that the muslims have now left our Province and the present proportion in the services does not include them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:-** May I know if the strength of population of Hindu and Sikhs has been assessed after the evacuation of Muslims

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** I want to know, Sir, whether the communal proportion in the services at present is same which existed in the United Punjab. The hon. Premier has pointed out that the proportion of the United Punjab, is being maintained even though it is apparent that the major share in the services was that of the muslims. Should I take that the communal proportion of muslims in the services is now distributed between Hindu and Sikhs? If so in what proportion?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** On a point of order, Sir. Is it a speech or question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is an introduction to the question.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** The Hon. Premier has pointed out that he has to yield sometimes to the pressure of the hon. Member and that the propaganda carried on in the press, while making certain appointments. May I know if the business of the Government can be carried on in the way it is being done?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state one or two instances wherein the appointment had to be made under pressure of any hon. member?

**Premier :** The hon. member tried to influence us. But we did not yield to them.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to mention the names of such hon. Members and the appointments for which they tried?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Premier has stated that appointments to services are not made on communal basis. May I know if it is a fact that there was an advertisement in the Tribune of the 24th December, 48, for post of a storekeeper for the Central Workshop and if it was given in that advertisement that even non-Sikhs were eligible for the post?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Lady Member is giving information.

#### CONTROL ON THE SALE OF KEROSENE OIL.

**\*654 Shri Bhagat Ram Chedha :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether he is aware of the fact that the Assistant Commissioner Civil Supplies, Jullundur during the course of his tour on 21-12-1948 at Adampur Doaba said that there was no control on the sale of kerosene oil and that dealers were at liberty to sell it at any rate they liked;

(b) Whether the above statement is a fact and that the price control on the kerosene oil has been removed, if so since when?

**The Hon Dr. Gopi Chond Bhargava:—**

(a) I am afraid I have not so far been able to establish the authenticity of the statement attributed to the Assistant Commissioner Civil Supplies, Jullundur.

(b) It is a fact that price control over kerosene oil was removed with effect from the 1st April, 1948. It is being reimposed from April 1st 1949.

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CHAMP GRAIN SHOPS FOR VILLAGES.

\*655 Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state;

(a) Whether it is a fact cheap grain shops have been opened in certain towns of the province;

(b) Whether it is proposed to open similar shops in villages as well?

The Hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:—

(a) Such shops were opened in 27 important towns of the province. Out of this, 20 towns have come under complete rationing. The remaining 7 towns will continue to have cheap grain shops.

(b) For deficit rural areas arrangements have been made for the supply of foodgrains at controlled rates under "deficit area scheme". Monthly allocations are made for each district and distribution of foodgrains is done through retail depots practically on lines of cheap-grain shops.

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SALARIES OF CLASSICAL AND VERNACULAR TEACHERS.

\*670. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur: Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the basic salary of English teachers of the Education Department is Rs. 90/- and Rs. 160/- per mensem and those of the Classical and Vernacular teachers is Rs. 50/- per month;

(b) the reasons for this disparity between the basic salaries of the two sets of the teachers of the Department;

(c) Whether the Government is aware of the general discontentment that prevails amongst the vernacular and classical teachers on this account;

(d) Whether the Government proposes to take any action to remove this disparity between the salaries of Classical teachers;

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**

- (a) Yes. The basic salary of a B. A., B. T. is Rs. 90/-, M. A., B. T. is Rs. 100/- and a Middle-passed S. V. is Rs. 50/- p. M.
- (b) The reasons for the different start are the high academic and teaching qualifications.
- (c) No discontentment prevails on this account. But there is a general clamour for the revision of grades on account of the prevailing dearness and high costs of living.
- (d) No. The initial salaries of English and Classical and Vernacular teachers were fixed by Government after considering all aspects of the matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:—** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state if the Government intends to remove this disparity between the salaries of English teachers and Vernacular teachers;

**Premier:—**It is the qualifications that are taken into consideration while fixing the salaries.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:—**May I know if the English teachers are given the higher scale of pay on account of their being the teachers of English & Vernacular teachers are given smaller scales of pay only because they teach Hindi.

**Premier:—**There is no question of the teaching of English or Hindi. It is the questions of the teachers that shall be taken into consideration at time of the revision of grades.

### UN-STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### IRRIGATION OF LANDS.

**144. Sardar Sajjan Singh.—**With reference to my unstarred question No. 92\* asked on 29th March 1948 will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) The steps that have been taken by the authorities to make up the deficiencies of the authorised discharge of the various outlets referred to in the question if no action has so far been taken in the matter, the reasons for the delay ;
- (b) Whether any other scheme for the irrigation of lands in this village with high levels have been introduced by the canal authorities ;
- (c) What was the total area irrigated by each of these canals outlets during Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1948, respectively.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No. as the areas on both the outlets at R. D. 65404-R and 71010-R are partly uncommanded and partly poorly commanded and hence low irrigation :
- (b) No scheme is possible to irrigate high lands except that zamindars put up Jhallars.
- (c) A statement showing the total area irrigated by each of these outlets during Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1947-48 is enclosed.

(Minister for Home and Revenue)

**Irrigation of outlets R. D. 65440-R and 71010-R Khara Distributary  
during Kharif 1947, Rabi 47-48.**

Name of channel.	R. D. of outlet with side.	Name of village.	C. C. A.	Annual permissible irrigation.	Irrigation.	
					Kharif 1947.	Rabi 1947-48
Khara Disty	65440-R	Salina	294	266	36	—
do	71010-R	do	385	346	85	112



DEFECT IN THE DISCHARGE OF CANAL OUTLET IRRIGATING LANDS IN  
PATTI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

**145. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Reference to my starred question No. 268 asked in the last Budget Section will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) What steps, if any, have been taken by the authorities to make up the deficiency of the authorised discharge of the canal outlet, if not, the reasons for the delay ;
- (b) What was the total area actually irrigated by the outlet during Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1948 ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) It is a tail outlet at R. D. 33089-T. F. of Rasulpur Minor and is correctly built, but due to disturbances and lawlessness condition of the tail supply was precarious ;
- (b) The area irrigated is as under :

<i>Kharif 1947</i>	<i>Rabi 1947-48</i>	<i>Kharif 1948.</i>
129	72	320

Low irrigation during 1947-48 was due to cause given in (a) above. During Kharif 1948 the area irrigated on this outlet is 320 acres which shows that the low irrigation was not due to low supplies at the tail.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO S. MANGAL SINGH AND OTHERS OF VILLAGE  
GAJJAL, TEHSIL TARAN TARN.

**146. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to State :—

- (a) Whether the refugee complainants were allotted land anywhere in Amritsar district, if so what was the total area allotted and the name of the village, if not, the reasons for the failure to allot land to them so far ;
- (b) Whether any other relief has been given to the complainants in question, if so, the nature of relief together with details thereof ?

**The Hon. Sardar Partap Singh:**

- (a) S. Mangal Singh and others of village Gajjal Tehsil Tarn Taran have not been allotted land in Amritsar district. It appears that they did not apply for allotment to the district rehabilitation authorities.
- (b) There is no information that S. Mangal Singh and others have received financial assistance from Government.

**DEFECTS IN CANAL OUTLETS, MINOR RATTOKI.**

147. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to my unstarred question No. 91 asked on 29th March 1948 will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) What steps, if any, have been taken by the canal authorities to make up the deficiencies of authorised discharge of canal outlets R. D. 16400-T. R., 16400-T. F., and 16400-T. L. minor Rattoki ;
- (b) Whether any actual discharge of the aforesaid canal outlets was recorded between 1. 4. 48, and 30. 9. 48, if so what are the results of these recording ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) There is no deficiency in the authorised discharge of these outlets except on outlet R. D. 16400-T. L., which is due to the fact that the land on this outlet is high and of poor command.
- (b) Actual discharges of the outlets were observed on 12th May 1948 and are given below :—

<i>Outlet.</i>	<i>Authorised Discharge.</i>	<i>Actually observed discharge.</i>
	<i>Cs.</i>	<i>Cs.</i>
16400-T. R.	2.03	2.88
16400-T. F.	1.75	2.04
16400-T. L.	1.76	1.55

COMPLAINTS OF S. BOOTA SINGH AND OTHERS OF BURJ DEVA SINGH,  
DISTRICT AMRITSAR, REGARDING DEFFICIENCY IN THE  
DISCHARGE OF CANAL OUTLETS.

**148. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the Hon. Minister of Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether S. Boota Singh and others of Village Burj Deva Singh, Sub-Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar complained to the Executive Engineer, Jandiala Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, on or about the 8th October, 1947, that their canal outlet was drawing less water than its due share, if so what action, if any, was taken in the matter ;
- (b) What is the authorised discharge of the canal outlet irrigating the lands of this village ;
- (c) The date on which actual discharge of this canal outlet was recorded during the period 30th April 1948 and 30th September 1948 and with what results ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) An application was received from S. Boota Singh and others of Village Burj Deva Singh on 13th October 1948. No action was taken as the discharge of the outlet of the village as actually observed on 14th September 1948 was found to be more than permissible.
- (b) The authorised discharge of outlet 46738-L of Khara Distributary is 3.1 cusecs.
- (c) Actual discharge observed on 14th September 1948 was 3.49 cusecs.

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SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY FROM CANAL OUTLET R. D. 73934  
MINOR KHARA.

**149. Sardar Sajjan Singh.**—Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether S. Chanan Singh and others of village Sabrai Sub-Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, sent a representation dated 6th October 1948 to the Executive Engineer Jandiala Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Amritsar, which was received by him on or about 8th October 1948 regarding the shortage of the canal water supply from Canal outlet R. D. 73934 minor Khara ;

*Sardar Sajjan Singh*—contd.

- (b) The total area under the command of this outlet at present;
- (c) The total area actually irrigated by this outlet during Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1948, respectively.
- (d) The authorised discharge of this canal outlet ;
- (e) Whether actual discharge of this canal outlet was recorded during the period 1st March 1948 and 30th September 1948. If so, when and with what results ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes, an application from the zamindars of village Subrai of outlet 73936 Tail Khara Distributary was received by executive Engineer, Jandiala Division, on 13th October 1948.
- (b) Outlet R. D. 73936-T. L. has got C. C. A. of 367 acres.

Outlet R. D. 73936-T. F. has got C. C. A of 559 acres.

		<i>Kharif</i> 1947.	<i>Rabi</i> 1947-48.	<i>Kharif.</i> 1948.
(c) Area irrigated on outlet				
	73936-T. L.	144	302	262
do.	73936-T. F.	182	202	284

This shows that there is no shortage on these outlets now.

(d) Outlet	<i>Authorised Discharge.</i>
73936-T. L.	1.14 cs.
73936-T. F.	1.73 cs.

- (e) These are tail outlets where supply is fluctuating. The tail gauge was observed on 16th June 1948 and found 1.3 against 1.0 authorised.

SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY FROM CANAL OUTLET IRRIGATING CERTAIN  
VILLAGES IN PATTI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

150. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to my starred question No. 267 asked in the last budget session, will the Hon'ble Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) what steps have been taken by the Canal authorities to make up the deficiency of the authorised discharge of the canal outlets, if not the reasons for the delay;
- (b) whether any discharge of these canal outlets was recorded during the period 1-4-48 and 30-9-1948, if so, with result;
- (c) what was the area actually irrigated by each of the aforesaid canal outlets in Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1948;
- (d) what was the total area under the command of each of the canal outlet during Kharif 1947 and Rabi 1948.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) There is no deficiency in the authorised discharge of the outlets concerned. Hence the question does not arise.
- (b) The outlet data was observed and the outlets were found working satisfactorily.
- (c) The area actually irrigated each of these outlets & C. C. A. and are given below :—

(d)

Outlet.	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	C. C. A.
	47	47-48	48	
25745-L	248 acres	177	321	808
31107-L	125 „	85	170	381
33089-TR	73 „	21	94	324

Irrigation in 1947-48 is no criterion. Low irrigation was due to disturbances and movements of Muslims. Figures for kharif 1948 are therefore given.

## DAMAGE TO CROPS BY MUSLIM CONVOYS GOING TO PAKISTAN.

**151. Sardar Sajjan Singh.** With reference to my starred question No. 236\* asked on 1st April, 1948, will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the decision arrived at by the Government regarding the remission of land revenue of village Khalra?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

There were not many border attacks in the area in question after the military post was set up. Sowings as also the condition of rabi crop being good, the question of remission of land revenue and abiana did not arise.

## ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY TAX IN JAGADHRY URBAN AREA.

**152. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib.** Will the Hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the 'property Tax' which has been recently levied in Jagadhry Urban area was assessed by the Assessment Officer after seeing the houses concerned and whether he sought the co-operation of the public in the matter ;
- (b) Whether it is also a fact that on appeals, made to the higher authority, the rental values of the majority of the houses have been reduced ;
- (c) Whether Government proposes to take any action in the matter ?

**The Hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad:**

- (a) The assessment of property tax was proposed by the Taxation Sub-Inspector after a door-to-door survey of all property units in Jagadhri town. Fifty per cent of the entries were checked by the Taxation Inspector and about 20% by the Assessing Authority (Excise and Taxation Officer). All property owners in the area were served with notices in form " B " calling for information in form " C " about the rental value of their properties. No further co-operation from the public is required under the law.

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\* Vol. II, page.



*The Hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad—contd.*

- (b) There are 4176 property units in Jagadhri town, out of which the rental value of 534 units was reduced by the Assessing Authority on objections filed before him. Upto this time only 5 appeals have been received, which have not been disposed of so far.
- (c) the assessment having been made in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Act, no action is called for.

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ABSORPTION OF THE LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY'S EMPLOYEES INTO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (ELECTRICITY BRANCH).

**153. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of such employees of the Lahore Electric supply undertaking, who were regularly and permanently taken into Government service in the Electricity Branch of the Public Works Department ;
- (b) whether all of them have been absorbed in the Electricity Branch of Public Works Department, East Punjab ; if not, whether the un-absorbed staff are being paid their monthly salaries regularly ;
- (c) whether the employees referred to above have been paid Travelling Allowance from Lahore to the place at which they joined their duty in the East Punjab ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) No information is available with the East Punjab, Government as the relevant records were left at Lahore and West Punjab Government has not given us the records or the copies thereof in spite of repeated requests.
- (b) 306 applications were received and 189 employees have so far been absorbed ; the unabsorbed staff is not in the service of East Punjab Government and no question of salaries being paid to them arises.

- (c) The employees were not entitled to Travelling allowance from Lahore according to the ordinary rules but it has been decided to give them the concession of travelling allowance, and those who have been absorbed in the East Punjab, will be paid their Travelling allowances.

COMMISSION RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH  
EXPORT OF POTATOES FROM SIMLA AND OTHER PLACES

**154. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib.** Will the Hon. Premier be please to state :—

- (a) the amount received by the Government as commission in connection with export of potatoes from Simla and other potatoes centres in the East Punjab during the year 1947.
- (b) the amount paid to Lala Sham Lal and others who have been engaged by the Government as inspectors in connection with potatoes exported from Simla and other centres during the year 1947 ;
- (c) the number of Inspectors with their names and addresses and the amount paid monthly to each one of them for their work in connection with the export of potatoes ;
- (d) the period for which the inspectors referred to above worked ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) The total amount received was Rs. 85264-1-0.
- (b) Rs. 32,624/- were paid by the East Punjab Government to Shri Sham Lal, Government, Inspecting Agent for Simla. In addition, the potato suppliers of Koti and Walson States paid him Rs. 2,376. The total payment amounted to Rs. 35,000.
- ) The following firms were appointed Inspecting Agents :
  - (i) Shri Sham Lal Khanna, the Mall Simla, for Simla,
  - (ii) M/s Nand Gopal and Sons, Solan; for Solan.

*The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava—contd.*

No monthly remuneration was fixed for the Inspecting Agents but it was intended to pay them a fair remuneration.

(d) The Inspecting Agents worked from the 11th November 1947 to 8th January 1948.

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SARDAR GURDIAL SINGH SUB-INSPECTOR PATTI.

155. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether Government is aware that Sardar Gurdial Singh Sub-Inspector Police, Patti, who was prosecuted for stealing evacuee's property in October, 1947, has been acquitted honourably by the Court trying his case;
- (b) whether the said Sub-Inspector has been reinstated in service after his acquittal; if not, the reasons therefor.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :—**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No. The question whether or not departmental action against him can be taken is under consideration.

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DAMAGE DONE TO CROPS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN AJNALA TAHSIL OF  
AMRITSAR DISTRICT

156. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that on account of heavy rains during the last rainy season, the Kharif crop and fodder, etc., were damaged in villages Saktu Nangal and Mahal Jandiala of Tehsil Ajnala in Amritsar District;
- (b) whether the residents of these villages made representation to the officers concerned for remission of land revenue;
- (c) if answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, what action was taken thereon;
- (d) whether Government propose to render any help to the sufferers, If so, how?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) and (d), The master is under consideration.

CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT REVISION COMMITTEE

**157. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Local Self Government Revision Committee has been formed by the Government, if so, the number and the names of its members :
- (b) the number and names of such members who possess any previous experience of Municipal Committees and District Boards ?

**The Hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Number of members including chairman is 8.

*Names of members.*

1. Shri J. M. Shrinagesh, I. C. S., Chairman (until recently).
2. Shri P. C. Bhandari, Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Amritsar.
3. S. Shiv Saran Singh, M.L.A.
4. L. Kesho Ram, Advocate, Ex. President, Municipal Committee Amritsar.
5. S. Labh Singh, Ex-President, Municipal Committee, Gujranwala.
6. Shri Mukand Lal Puri, Advocate, Simla.
7. S. Gurcharan Singh, M.L.A. Ferozepur
8. Shri R. D. Kapila, Member, Secretary.

- (b) Almost all members possess experience of Municipal and District Board administration.

## EMPLOYMENT OF REFUGEES IN LOCAL BODIES OF THE PROVINCE

**158. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:** Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of refugee employees of Municipal Committees and District Boards of districts now comprised in west Punjab and who have since been employed in the Municipal Committees and District Boards in East Punjab ;
- (b) the number of the teachers who have been employed in the Municipal and District Board School in the District of Hoshiarpur. with their names ?

**The Hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt:**

The Statement is laid on the Table.\*

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OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES DRAWING MORE THAN RS. 200/-

**159. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:** Will the Hon Minister for Finance be pleased to state.—

- (a) the number of officers in the department of Industries drawing salary from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- p. m. and those drawing above Rs. 500/- p. m. with names in both the cases.
- (b) the names of such officers appointed after the 15th August 1947.

**The Hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) The number of officers in the Department of Industries drawing salary from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- per mensem is 12 and those drawing above Rs. 500/- per mensem is 23. Lists showing names of officers of both the categories are enclosed as statement A and B. \*
- (b) A list giving the names is enclosed as statement C. \*

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\*Kept in the Library.

## APPOINTMENT OF DR. ROSHA AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

160. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Dr. Rosha who has been appointed, Assistant Director Public Health, has superseded two-officers who were senior to him;
- (b) how the record as regards ability and length of service of Dr. Rosha compares with those of the officers whom he has been allowed to supersede;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the conduct of Dr. Rosha, when he was posted at Jhang, was subject of an official enquiry;
- (d) what was the result of the enquiry referred to in (c) and whether any punishment was awarded to Dr. Rosha.

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

- (a) No. He has superseded only one officer and was appointed as Officiating Assistant Director of Public Health in a leave vacancy.
- (b) Appointments of Assistant Directors Public Health are made by selection on the basis of merit and not by promotions a matter of right. Besides when Dr. Rosha was appointed, it was on a temporary basis. The officer superseded has now been appointed Officiating Assistant Director Public Health.
- (c) Yes. This was in 1937-38.
- (d) He was censured, warned and his increment withheld for one year. Dr. Rosha's work has improved considerably since then.

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PAUCITY OF RAINS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF DISTRICT GURDASPUR

161. **Sardar Waryam Singh:** Will the Hon Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the paucity of rains in the villages, Talwandi Lal Singh, Dahlanwala, Ghogha, Khokhar, Kot Bama, Marhar, Sheikhupura, Bajnman, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur, has resulted in the failure of the kharif crop, causing tremendous loss to the villages;



*Sardar Swaran Singh*—contd.

- (b) what steps the Government has taken or propose to take to give relief to the villages ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that these villages lose their crops almost every year ;
- (d) whether the Government propose to make some arrangements for permanent relief to these villages ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE AREA OF QADIAN FROM BARI DOAB CANAL

**162. Sardar Waryam Singh.** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that during the British regime, the area of Qadian, District Gurdaspur and the adjoining tracts of Amritsar district were surveyed in connection with the supply of water from Bari Doab canal to these areas ;
- (b) whether this survey was carried out while maintaining the supply of water at its former level ;
- (c) whether in view of so much surplus water therein, the question of the supply of water to the areas referred to above is still engaging the attention of the East Punjab Government, if so, when the water is likely to be made available to these areas ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The survey was of an exploratory nature.
- (c) First part ; there is no surplus water ; Second part ; does not arise.

## ARMS LICENCES

• **163. Sardar Waryam Singh:** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the procedure for the grant of licences for arms varies from district to district in this province ;
- (b) whether police enquiry is considered necessary in the Amritsar District before applications for licences are granted in the Amritsar District ;
- (c) If the answer (b) is in the negative, why police enquiry is considered necessary in the Gurdaspur District even in cases where the applications are recommended by M. L. As.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes. In Amritsar and all other districts except in exceptional cases where such inquiry is held afterwards.
- (c) Does not arise.

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DISCONTINUATION OF CANAL WATER SUPPLY TO GURDASPUR DISTRICT

**164. Sardar Waryam Singh:** Will the Hon Minister for Home and Revenue be please to state ;—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the district of Gurdaspur, the supply of the Canal Water was discontinued after the 15th October :—
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the “ Abiana ” is charged from the agriculturists for the Rabi crop as well ;
- (c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative the reasons for the discontinuation of water supply for the crop for which “ Abiana ” is charged during the year ;
- (d) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to ensure that the water supply be made available for both the crops in a year in future ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swarn Singh :**

- (a) All Kharif channels in Gurdaspur Division are closed on 15th October every year. In the year 1948 however all channels in this Division were given extra supplies as a special case for 5 days from 27th October 1948 to 31st October 1948.
- (b) Yes, Abiana is charged for first watering only and at reduced special rates sanctioned for Kharif channels according to Canal Act.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) None for the present. Question can be considered when more supply becomes available.

#### FACILITIES TO PATWARIS.

**165. Sardar Waryam Singh :** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the days of British regime, the patwaris in addition to their pay got facilities in the form of " Phaslana " " Nazrana " fodder, fuel etc ;
- (b) Whether all the these facilities have been withheld in pursuance of the Anti-corruption campaign ;
- (c) If the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative whether the Government proposes to take steps to ameliorate the condition of the patwaris ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swarn Singh:**

- (a) The Patwaris were not allowed to get " Faslane ", " Nazrana ", fodder and fuel etc., in addition to their pay in the days of British regime, nor have they any right to claim them now.

- (b) ] Do not arise.
- (c) ]

## LAND REVENUE FROM REFUGEES.

166. **Sardar Waryam Singh.**—Will the Hon. Minister, Relief and Rehabilitation be placed to State :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact the Refugees from Pakistan who have been allotted lands in the East Punjab are being charged land revenue at thrice the ordinary rate.
- (b) Whether Government is aware of the rules according to which land revenue is being charged on the lands left behind in Pakistan by these refugees and the way these are being charged.
- (c) Whether the balance of land revenue of refugees on their lands in Pakistan and the lands allotted to them here is likely to be paid to them, if not, the reason therefor.

**The Hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) The rent of evacuee lands has been charged at different rates for different harvests *viz.*

**Kharif 1947.**

Only land revenue and cesses have been charged from refugees who were allotted land on which kharif crops were standing. Where there was no kharif crop, no land revenue was charged.

**Rabi 1948.**

- (a) If the area of evacuee land sown during Rabi 1947-48 in a village is 75% or more of the evacuee area in that village sown during Rabi 1946-47, the rent is twice the land revenue in addition to cesses etc. ;
- (b) If the area sown is 50% or more, but is less than 75%, the rent charged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the land revenue plus cesses etc.
- (c) If the area sown is less than 50% only the land revenue plus cesses etc., are charged.
- (d) If the area sown is nil, the land revenue and cesses will be met by the Custodian.

*The Hon. Sardar Partap Singh—contd.*

*Kharif 1948.*

- (i) If the area of evacuee land sown during Kharif 1948 in a village is two third or more of the evacuee area in that village sown during Kharif 1946, the rent charged is three times the land revenue plus cesses ;
  - (ii) If the area is one-third or more but is less than two-thirds, the rent charged is twice the land revenue plus cesses ; and
  - (iii) If the area sown is less than one-third, only the land revenue plus cesses etc., are charged.
- (b) The West Punjab Government have charged no rent for kharif 1947. For Rabi 1948 rent at three times the land revenue has been charged, for Kharif 1948 at six times.
- (c) Evacuee accounts are being maintained by both the Governments and the payment of balances on account of income of their lands will depend on the procedure adopted for the implementation of the Inter-Dominion Agreement, any made.

#### PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND

167. **Sardar Waryam Singh :—**

Will the Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state that how much land the Government proposes to give to each refugee in the permanent allotment of land ?

**The Hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

Final decisions have not yet been taken. This subject is under the consideration of Government.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN GORDASPUR DISTRICT.

168. **Sardar Waryam Singh :** Will the Hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether any new road has been constructed in Gurdaspur District since the new Province of East Punjab has come into existence ;

**Sardar Waryam Singh—contd.**

- (b) Whether Government is aware of the fact that the road from Gurdaspur to Dera Baba Nanak *via* Kalanaur is a border road and yet unmetalled ;
- (c) Whether Government has under consideration the proposal to metal this road ?

**The Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:**

- (a) The following roads have been improved in the Gurdaspur district as un-metalled roads ;
  - (1) Dinanagar-Kathlaur-Bamial-Narot with two ferries at Mastoo river ;
  - (2) Kathua-Narot Jaimal Singh.
  - (3) Narot-Parol Nagri.
- (b) The Government is aware that the road from Gurdaspur to Dera Baba Nanak is a border road and yet unmetalled ;
- (c) The Government has under consideration the proposal to metal this road.

**TRACTORS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF LAND IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT.**

**169. Sardar Waryam Singh.**—Will the Hon'ble Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government proposes to provide tractors for the cultivation of land lying uncultivated in Gurdaspur district; if so, the number of tractors and the time within which they may be expected to arrive?

**The Hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:**

First part. Yes.

Second part. It is proposed to allot three tractors to the Gurdaspur Agricultural Circle as soon as they are supplied by the Government of India. A purchase order has already been placed with the Central Government but the date by which they would be supplied, is not known.



## CULTIVABLE AREA AND LAND RECOVERED IN THE PROVINCE.

170. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of villages in each tahsil of each district in the Province ;
- (b) the total areas fit for cultivation in each of the districts with particulars of different kinds of lands, i.e., Barani, Chahi, Nehri, etc. ;
- (c) total land revenue assessed and recovered in each of the tehsils of each district during the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49. respectively ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swarn Singh :**

I regret the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the Hon. Member when ready.

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ADJOURNMENT MOTION

**Sardar Sardul Singh :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) Sir, I ask for leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House.....

**Mr. Speaker :** Order Order. I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 132. Under this Rule no adjournment motion can be moved on the day of the presentation of the Budget.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** On a point of order Sir, is it not the breach of the privileges of the House that some information regarding the Budget has already appeared in the press before the budget has been presented to the House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not concern me or this House.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra.** Is it not an insult to the House that the information be published in the press before the Budget has been presented to the Assembly ?

**Mr. Speaker :** You can move a motion upon this point. That is the proper procedure.

3 P. M.

(Minister for Finance. The Hon Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt).

Sir I rise to present the Budget for 1949-50.

It was almost exactly a year ago that I listened to the Budget Speech of the Hon. Premier of East Punjab when he introduced the Budget Estimates for 1948-49. Scarce could I imagine then that, so soon after that, one, who used to initiate discussions on the Punjab Budgets with embarrassing independence, would be asked to assume responsibility and face the music in unprecedentedly trying and horrific conditions. One whole year has gone by and during the span of this year it was my privilege to handle and manage the finances of East Punjab as best as I could in the present set-up. This privilege has not been without its educative value to me personally and was, therefore, doubly welcome, for it not only afforded me an opportunity of service to my Province but also gave me a chance to combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience of administration and have an insight into the intricacies and difficulties of the Finance Department which plays an important role in the general efficiency of the administration as a whole. During my short experience confirmation has been made available to my long-cherished conviction that Public Finance, whose task is most thankless and difficult, should never be made the hand-maid of politics and that a Finance Minister should steer himself clear of petty party factions and administrative intrigues and that he should rise above sectional prejudices and vested interests. (Hear, hear) It Although the difficulties in its way were Himalayan. I am glad to say that the Finance Department maintained on the whole, a high standard of administration and conducted the stewardship of the East Punjab finances without fear or favour. We are yet an infant democracy and I have no doubt, when it has attained its blooming youth, the Provincial Finance Departments will enjoy a greater measure of prestige and authority than they do at present, and such as the Finance Departments do in advanced democracies in the world. A great Finance Minister of Modern India, James Wilson, once observed, "Finance is not arithmetic; finance is a great policy; without sound finance no sound government is possible; and without sound government no sound finance is possible."

Even in ancient India, which still beacons us to the sublime heights of life, the importance and authority of finance was fully recognised. Kautilya, the great authority on economics and public finance in the

*Minister for Finance—contd,*

Mauryan period, two thousand years ago, wrote in his great book, *Arthashastra*, "All undertakings depend upon finance. Hence foremost attention shall be paid to the treasury." Again, he wrote, "Thus, when both the receipts and expenditure are properly cared for, the King will never find himself in financial or military difficulties."

I took charge as custodian of the finances of this Province at a time when it was generally believed that India had turned the corner in the matter of recovery from the disastrous effects of the last Great War. One wretched morning, however, India woke up and found that she was again in the clutches of the demon of inflation. She was awakened to the fact that she was once again whirling in the vicious circle of rising prices and falling production. East Punjab could not remain unaffected by the economic and financial crisis which overtook the country. It upset our plans and set us athinking afresh. Shall we go ahead with our Development and Beneficent Schemes or confine ourselves to such schemes as hold out prospects of immediate productivity? Shall I produce a surplus budget and starve the Development and Beneficent forces or shall I indulge in deficit financing and supply vitamins to the province which was suffering from inanition. I thought to myself that the general principles laid down recently by industrialists and economists to fight the demon of inflation did not apply in their entirety to a Province whose economy had, owing to partition, been thrown completely out of gear and where we had to build up life *de novo* in all its aspects. I decided that certain theories of orthodox Finance could wait till I had restored the economy of the Province to a large extent. I had, however, to combine boldness with caution and you will find that it is as a result of this judicious combination that in the ultimate analysis the Budget for 1949-50 is almost a balanced budget. I am glad to say, as hon. Members will presently find, that the inherent state of our finances is, to say the least, not unsound.

I must, however, say that East Punjab could not remain unaffected by the financial crisis. We had to revise some of our schemes with a view to curtail the originally estimated expenditure and put some other schemes in the cold storage.

It is with the background depicted above that we have to consider the Budget. I would like to bring home to honest and friendly critics that the prosperity of East Punjab is linked up with the prosperity of

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

India, as hers in turn is linked up with that of the rest of the world. To establish prosperity everywhere we shall have to give up our present habits of mind which leads us into narrow grooves, and think and act collectively in terms of social justice for all humanity.

With these introductory remarks I will, in pursuance of established practice, address myself first to the final accounts of the year 1947-48, then deal with the revised estimates of the year 1948-49 and finally place before the Hon. Members the Budget Estimates for the year 1949-50.

*1947-48*

At the time of the presentation of the Budget for the year 1947-48 a deficit of Rs. 2,30 lakhs was estimated. As the year advanced, Revenue Expenditure outplaced Revenue Receipts, and at the time of the final revised estimates for 1947-48 a deficit of 6,98 lakhs was anticipated. The accounts, however, now reveal an improvement of Rs. 4,96 lakhs—an increase in Revenue Receipts of Rs. 73 lakhs and a reduction in Revenue Expenditure, as booked in accounts, of Rs. 4,23 lakhs. I will not deal in detail with these variations both under Receipts and Expenditure and Hon. Members interested in the study of the same will find these dealt with in the very able and lucid memorandum prepared by our talented Finance Secretary. The main increases under Receipts are—

(In lakhs of rupees)

Land Revenue (Gross)	...	+15
Other Taxes and Duties	...	+10
Miscellaneous	...	+56

Land Revenue Receipts in the Revised Estimates were expected to drop from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 69½ lakhs in view of the unprecedented floods in certain districts and damage to crops at the hands of incoming and outgoing Refugees and because of the general unsettled conditions in urban areas. These anticipations, thanks to the rise in the prices of agricultural produce, did not adversely affect our income under this head, and fixed collections were realized better than anticipated. So also were arrears of Land Revenue which were paid in because of the better prices of agricultural produce.

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

The increase under Other Taxes and Duties is mainly on account of restoration of normal conditions during the closing months of the year 1947-48 and the consequent functioning of cinema houses etc. Arrears of Sales Tax and Property Tax realised during the year, also contributed to the increase.

Under Miscellaneous, unclaimed deposits which are always of a fluctuating nature, have contributed Rs. 9 lakhs and miscellaneous receipts of the Rehabilitation Department Rs. 42 lakhs.

The position of Revenue Expenditure according to the accounts is—

		(In lakhs of rupees).
Revised Estimates	...	12.20
Accounts	—	9.07
Decrease	...	4.23

Ordnance Stores which were expected to be purchased for the Police Department were not available and the amount provided on that account could not be utilised. The Police strength could also not be brought up to the sanctioned cadre (for want of suitable recruits) and both these factors resulted in a saving of Rs. 25 lakhs in the Police expenditure.

The Miscellaneous Expenditure showed a saving of Rs. 3.31 lakhs mainly because the debits in respect of supplies of tents, medical equipment and Stores, etc., for Relief of Refugees expected from the Government of India were not received for adjustment during the year.

The decreased expenditure of Rs. 4.23 lakhs is, therefore, partly as a result of reduction of expenditure but mainly as a consequence of the non-receipt of debits for liabilities actually incurred during the year 1947-48.

**1948-49**

When the budget for the current year was framed a deficit of Rs. 6.60 lakhs was expected; the Revenue Receipts were estimated at Rs. 11.13 lakhs and Expenditure Rs. 17.82 lakhs. The revised estimates as now presented to the House show Receipts at Rs. 13.46 lakhs and Expenditure Rs. 24.34 lakhs, resulting in a larger deficit of Rs.



*Minister for Finance—contd.*

10,88 lakhs. The Revenue Receipts show a betterment of Rs. 2,33 lakhs, made up of the following important increases:—

**Taxes on Income (Rs. 53 lakhs)**—Estimates of these are based on the information supplied by the Government of India and it has now been intimated that the divisible proceeds available for distribution to the provinces will be higher than originally forecasted by them, and our share of these is expected to be better by this amount.

**Forests (Rs. 7 lakhs)**—This is accounted for by the income from floatings which could not be realised in the previous year.

**Irrigation (Rs. 28 lakhs)**—This represents recoveries made from West Punjab for the supply of water from the Central Bari Doab Canal and the Dipalpur Canal.

**Agriculture. (Rs. 18½ lakhs)**—Mainly on account of larger sale of improved seeds—an increase which is counter-balanced by an increase on the expenditure side.

**Miscellaneous (Rs. 82 lakhs)**—of which 71 lakhs is in respect of the receipts of the Rehabilitation Department, which could not be foreseen.

On the Expenditure side, the increase of Rs. 6,52 lakhs is mainly spread over—

	(In lakhs of rupees)
Interest Heads	... 14
Police	... 23
Education	... 31
Agriculture	... 22
Civil Works	... 33
Pensions	... 31
Miscellaneous (mainly Relief and Rehabilitation)	... 4,90

As East Punjab did not have the necessary Ways and Means to meet the heavy day-to-day expenditure being incurred on Relief and Rehabilitation of Refugees, advances had to be obtained from the Central Government or the Reserve Bank to meet the same, Interest on these advances as also on other loans taken for Development purposes, resulted in an increased expenditure of Rs. 14 lakhs under interest heads.



*Minister for Finance*—contd.

The increase under Police is unavoidable in this Border Province. It was necessary to equip the Provincial Armed Police on the border with arms and ammunition, vehicles, horses, etc. Wireless Organisation on the border has had to be reorganised to keep in close and constant touch with the activities on the border. To prevent the Police staff on the border sponging on the local population for securing their food supplies, the concession of free rations had to be extended to such of them as were posted on the border.

Howsoever we may desire to cut down expenditure on Police, I am afraid this expenditure will be on the increase in this poor Province for some time yet to come. If we want a better Police force, we will have to pay them on scales better than the present ones which are not such as to attract the best available material for service in this force.

Under Education, increase in expenditure is accounted for by the influx of a large number of Refugee students from West Punjab. To be able to give them education it was necessary to expand existing Government Colleges and provide them with additional furniture, library books, science apparatus, equipment, etc. etc. Increased grants to local bodies for dearness allowance to teachers and on account of the revision of scale-pays of vernacular teachers also added to this expenditure.

Larger purchases of improved seeds resulted in increased expenditure under Agriculture for which a corresponding credit, as already explained, appears on the Receipt side.

Increase under "Civil Works" is mainly due to the conversion of the existing Legislative Assembly Chamber, construction of Rupar-Nangal Road and protection work at Nasrula Cho, etc.

The increase under "Pensions" is the result of the payments of pensions of certain Government servants residing in the Indian Dominion pending final settlement with the West Punjab Government. Under the existing arrangement the expenditure on pensions in respect of Government servants who retired from the undivided Punjab before the 15th August, 1947, or who retired after the 15th August, 1947, without having opted for either of the two provinces is borne initially by East Punjab if payment is made in any part of India and by West Punjab in other cases whether in Pakistan or outside India or Pakistan.

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

The increase under Miscellaneous is mainly in respect of expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation. We have, besides providing increased expenditure for Relief of Refugees and their Rehabilitation, made provision this year for meeting debits in respect of supplies made by the Government of India in 1947-48. Of what we have done for our Refugees, or what we propose to do for their Relief and Rehabilitation, I shall speak a little later.

These are the important features of our Revenue Account for 1948-49. It is needless for me to reiterate here the details in respect of other accounts as they are fully explained in the Finance Secretary's memorandum to which I would request the Hon. Members interested in the same to refer.

**1949-50**

And now I come to the Budget Estimates for the year 1949-50. Hon. Members would observe that like the previous two years it shows an apparent deficit. Our Revenue Receipts are estimated at Rs. 14.37 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure Rs. 22.92 lakhs, thus showing a gap of Rs. 8.55 lakhs. I would, however, like to focus the attention of Hon. Members on the fact that this gap does not represent the extent of our provincial deficit. The Revenue Expenditure of Rs. 22.92 lakhs includes an expenditure of Rs. 8.30 lakhs on Relief and Rehabilitation of Refugees. In other words, our apparent deficit almost equals the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation of Refugees. Assuming that out of the expenditure of Rs. 8.30 lakhs a sum ranging from Rs. 7.00 lakhs to Rs. 7.50 lakhs would be recovered from the Central Government (who have assumed liability for certain specific items of Relief and Rehabilitation expenditure and whose responsibility in respect of some other items is under discussion with them) our gap would be reduced to about a crore or one and a half crore of rupees only. This I may point out to the Hon. Members would be wiped out by the amount of Post-war grant promised us by the Central Government which will be Rs. 1.50 lakhs during 1949-50. You will thus find, Sir, that according to our present calculations the Budget for 1949-50 is almost a balanced budget. *Cheers.*

Hon. Members are entitled to ask what generally is the financial future of East Punjab? I would welcome such a question, for it is good to take stock of our financial position and chalk out our financial policy

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

with a long-range view. Our Revenue Receipts for 1949-50 include a sum of Rs. 1,20 lakhs as receipts of Relief and Rehabilitation Department which will ultimately disappear from the scene, for, after all, rehabilitation is a temporary problem. Further if we are to do without a subsidy from the Centre (which would be the aim of East Punjab Government) we should have to raise something like 3 crores of rupees as additional revenue in order that our revenue receipts in future years may be equal to what they are estimated for 1949-50. Further there are a few other items of expenditure which we must not lose sight of. Our expenditure is likely to go up as a result of the normal increase in establishment charges which follows from incremental scales. We have, moreover, yet to assume our full liability in respect of debt, pensionary charges, etc. In addition it would be necessary—if the Province is to be developed—to make available during the next 8 to 10 years from our own resources a sum at least corresponding to the grant provided by the Government of India for Development Schemes—i.e., 10.79 crores of rupees, if not more. In order, therefore, to be fully self-sufficient a gap of about 3 crores of rupees per annum in our future financial structure would have to be bridged.

Naturally, the question arises 'how to fill this gap'. The answer will be the headache of future governments, but the present Government took steps beforehand to tap fresh sources of revenue and find out items of expenditure which could be cut or curtailed. These steps, to which I shall presently refer, were also taken with a view to meet any unforeseen or unaccounted liabilities which we might have to undertake in the immediate future. Hon Members will recall that at the last Budget Session of the Assembly, Government had accepted the proposal of the House to appoint a Resources and Retrenchment Committee. This Committee has been engaged on its labours, off and on, during the last six months, and they have not yet completed their task. They have, however, made certain interim proposals both with a view to cut down the governmental expenditure, as also with the object of raising additional revenues. These proposals are under departmental examination and one of these has actually been accepted by Government. This relates to the imposition of a small graduated cess on road passenger traffic and is calculated to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum. As and when final decisions are taken on the other proposals now under departmental examination or to be made hereafter, orders to give effect to the same would be issued.

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

The problem of raising additional revenues is not an easy one—generally speaking Provincial sources of Revenue are very inelastic. We can think of nothing of much value in this direction save Water Rates, Land Revenue, Sales Tax and Schemes of Nationalisation of Road Transport.

Our hopes are now centred mainly round the Bhakra and Nangal Projects, which when completed are expected not only to bring in additional revenue to the Provincial Exchequer, by providing electricity and irrigation to areas neglected in the past, but augment the all-round prosperity of the Province. But I would be failing in my duty if I did not utter a note of warning also about the Bhakra and Nangal Projects. We have had to undertake these big Projects (biggest in India) at a time of acute inflation, and we are planning to go ahead with these at top speed so as to be self-sufficient in the matter of our food supplies at as early a date as possible. We are thus undertaking these projects—without counting the cost as it were—and as we have no detailed estimates of the Projects with us we cannot at this stage say what these works will cost, nor what increase will accrue to provincial Revenues, after their completion.

I will now proceed to deal with the important aspects of our Revenue and Expenditure as budgeted for the next year. Here again I will confine myself to the broad outlines only leaving Hon. Members to refer to the Finance Secretary's memorandum for detailed information. On the Revenue side the only important increase is under Other Taxes and Duties. Income during the next year under this head is expected to increase by Rs. 51 lakhs mainly because of the new Sales Tax Act, provisions of which have been brought in line with those generally operative in India as a whole. The rate of the Sales Tax has been enhanced from annas 4 per cent to Rs. 3-2-0 per cent and the tax will be collected quarterly instead of annually. The new Act has been welcomed by the business community as it does not hamper Inter-Provincial trade.

Now, I shall deal with our Expenditure. But before coming down to brass tacks, I would like to make a few general observations on the theory and practice of Expenditure. There is a general cry in the country, and in East Punjab too, against the ever-increasing expenditure of governments. While I am in favour of applying the axe to all wasteful expenditure, and shall do all that I can in this respect, I must say that the demand for cutting down governmental expen-



*Minister fof Finance---contd.*

diture drastically is born of ignorance of the modern laws of public finance. In a society fashioned on the principles of anarchism which believes in free living without a government, or in a society, where governmental activities are reduced to the minimum one can eliminate the need for any governmental expenditure or reduce it to the minimum. But in modern societies, in which governments are all comprehensive and their sphere of control and influence extends to almost all aspects of man's life, expenditure is forced to observe a law of increase. Adolph Wanger, a German Economist of the latter part of the nineteenth century, presented his famous "Law of the increase of State activities" in these terms:—

"Comprehensive comparisons of different countries and different times show that, among progressive peoples, with which alone we are concerned, an increase regularly takes place in the activity of both the central and the local governments. This increase is both extensive and intensive; the central and local governments constantly undertake new functions, while they perform both old and new functions more efficiently and completely. In this way the economic needs of the people, to an increasing extent and in a more satisfactory fashion, are satisfied by the central and local governments."

This quotation has been taken from a new book entitled "The Economics of Public Finance" (New York, 1948) by *Philip E. Taylor*, who supports Adolph Wanger's view.

There is no hard and fast rule by which one can determine the percentage of resources to be earmarked for expenditure. In another new book entitled "Public Finance" (New York and London, 1940) by *Alfred G. Brichler, Ph.D.*, I came across the following illuminating observation:—

"To some persons a relative increase in public expenditures seems a calamity, to others it is a cause of rejoicing, and to still others it is a matter of indifference. No definite percentage of national income can be named as the proper limit for the costs of government, since such a limit must depend upon relative circumstances. The proper limit of expenditures depends on the desires and needs of a community, the effects of government spending and the revenues supporting the spending, the willingness of the population to be taxed, existing burdens of taxation, the resources and population of a community, the distribution of wealth and income, the stage of economic development, and other variables. *The real issue is the advisability of a particular expenditure of a particular government at a particular time.*"

There is hardly any government in the world, centralised or decentralised, warlike or peaceful, large or small, which does not show marked tendency towards increase in expenditure. To take only one

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instance—and a prominent instance at that,—I give below figures showing the growth of Federal and State (Provincial) expenditures in the United States of America for selected years since 1913:—

***Expenditure of Federal and State Governments, U. S. Selected Years,  
1913—1945 (in millions of dollars.)***

<i>Year</i>		<i>Federal</i>	<i>State</i>
1913	...	725	383
1919	...	13,515	640
1923	...	3,293	1,208
1929	...	3,299	1,943
1933	...	3,864	2,067
1937	...	8,177	3,463
1941	...	12,711	5,551
1945	...	100,405	6,029

I would again make it clear that my observations on expenditure should not be misconstrued to represent me as an opponent of legitimate reduction in expenditure.

Coming to our own Expenditure, the figures show a net decrease of Rs. 1.42 lakhs. In reality there is an increase in expenditure under all sections of accounts, but it is more than set off by the decrease anticipated in the expenditure on Relief of Refugees who to a large extent have since been dispersed from the camps. I would not attempt to repeat here the reasons for increase in expenditure under various heads of account since these have been detailed by the Finance Secretary in his memorandum. I will, instead, confine myself to giving a brief account of the various activities of the major departments of Government so as to give Hon. Members an idea of the important aspects of their working in the present and the coming year.

***Direct Demands on Revenue.***

The functions of Excise and Taxation, Forests and Transport Departments need only be mentioned here since there is nothing worth special mention under Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration. Almost one-fifth of our total Revenue is contributed by the Excise and Taxation Department and of this a major portion comes from Excise. The future of this source of income is linked up with our prohibition policy. As the Hon. Members are aware prohibition in



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the Rohtak District was introduced from 1st October, 1948, and no efforts to make it a success in that district are being spared. Enforcement of prohibition, however, not only involves loss in revenue but also entails additional expenditure on Enforcement Staff. In a poor Province like East Punjab, the programme of extension of prohibition will have to be carefully considered. It is not that the intention to introduce full prohibition is lacking, it is first a question whether we can afford to take up this desirable reform.

On the Taxation side the income from various sources of taxation like Entertainment Tax, Electricity Duties, Sales Tax and Property Tax are expected to go up as normal conditions are restored in the Province. In view of the passing of the new Sales Tax Act by the Assembly at its last session the Taxation Department will not only have to deal next year with returns for the Sales Tax in respect of the year 1948-49 but also with those of the year 1949-50 which under the new Act will be submitted quarterly and not annually. The Excise and Taxation Commissioner has also been entrusted with the work of enumeration of dwellings which is expected to start with effect from 1st April, 1949.

*Forests.*—The anticipated receipts of this Department during 1949-50 exceed the anticipated expenditure by Rs. 7 lakhs. I feel that there is room for increased revenues from our Forests which on the other hand should be run at a lesser cost than at present. The ratio of Forest receipts to expenditure accepted as a token of efficient working of the Department in pre-partitioned Punjab was 10/7. It is now 8/7 approximately.

*Transport.*—During the year 1948-49 Local Omnibus Services were started at Jullundur and Amritsar. It is intended to increase the existing fleet at Jullundur from 17 to 26 buses so as to connect Kapurthala and Phagwara with Jullundur by bus. The fleet running at Amritsar is also proposed to be increased from 10 to 13 before the end of the current financial year. It is intended to embark on an intensive programme of nationalisation of passenger transport in the Province for which plans are being chalked out by a special staff appointed for this purpose, (Cheers).

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Irrigation is the life-blood of East Punjab. When the budget for the current year was framed it was anticipated that the working of the Irrigation Department would result in a loss of about Rs. 2 lakhs during that year. On the basis of the revised figures this loss has been turned into a surplus of about Rs. 10 lakhs mainly because of the credit expected from West Punjab for the supply of water from the Central Bari Doab Canal and Dipalpur Canal. For the next year it is anticipated that there would be a net surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs only. While the receipts are expected to increase and the working expenses to decrease the interest charges reduce all these betterments. The increase in Capital Expenditure on Bhakra has its repercussions on the revenue account as more interest charges are required to be paid on the basis of the increased Capital Expenditure. The existing canals in East Punjab are not so paying as were the canals situated in the area now falling in West Punjab and this accounts for the fact that while working expenses, interest charges and other miscellaneous revenue expenditure in the joint Punjab were 65·2 per cent of the gross estimated Irrigation Revenue for 1947-48, this figure, according to the budgeted figures for 1949-50, stands at 98·6 per cent in East Punjab.

Hon. Members will be interested to know something about the Bhakra-Nangal Projects. It is now contemplated to construct 650 feet high Dam above the the lowest foundation level across the Sutlej river in a gorge at Bhakra 50 miles upstream of Rupar Weir. The reservoir so formed will have a live storage capacity of 5·4 acre feet. About 8 miles below the Bhakra Dam will be constructed a Dam across the Weir above which the Nangal Hydel Channel will take off. The Bhakra Canal will take off at the tail of the Nangal Hydel Channel near Rupar.

The Hydro-Electric power capacity of the Bhakra Dam is about 250,000 kw. at 100 per cent load factor. It is anticipated that the project will provide an annual irrigation to about 42 lakh acres.

Most of the survey work on the project and the preliminary exploration work of the Dam have been completed. Detailed estimates of the cost of the project are, however, still under preparation. Gravel excavation of over 1½ crores c. ft. is expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

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The work on the Nangal Dam will be shortly completed in 17 out of 28 spans of the Dam and the river which is now flowing in the right half would be soon diverted into its left half where the work has been nearly completed so as to enable the construction of the remaining 11 spans also. In spite of the shortage of materials for construction and equipment for excavation as well as the difficulty of transport and labour, work on the Nangal Canal has progressed satisfactorily during 1948-49. In respect of communications to Bhakra Dam the work of railway and road from Nangal to Bhakra is being done by the Irrigation Branch. To complete the railway track, construction of a 1,100 feet broad gauge railway tunnel is required which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Construction of three important railway bridges is also in hand. Other works relating to railway and hill roads are in progress. On the whole the work is stated to be progressing satisfactorily.

**Civil Administration.**

The total expenditure expected next year under this section is about 5.15 crores of rupees, out of which a little over 4½ crores of rupees—almost the same expenditure as is anticipated to be incurred in the current year—are likely to be spent on General Administration and Police.

The problem of General Administration in East Punjab became perhaps the most difficult than that in any other province in India because East Punjab was the only Province, after India became free, which had lost its Capital. We have had to scatter our offices in various places and this inevitably has not been without its effect on the efficiency of our General Administration. It is an achievement, however that we have been able to work as efficiently as we did in spite of those handicaps.

The additional cost of locating some of our staff at Simla in view of that being the temporary Headquarters of the East Punjab Government, in the shape of Simla Compensatory Allowance, House Rent Allowance, and counting also the extra T. A. charges which are incurred on touring from Simla to various places in East Punjab roughly works to about 20 lakhs of rupees per annum.

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The expenditure on General Administration estimated for the next year shows an increase of about Rs. 9 lakhs. The recent improvement in the pay scales of the lowest paid Government employees—whose case was so strongly advocated in its last session by this House—is partly responsible for this increase. Normal increase in pays on account of incremental scales has also added to the expenditure, but the increase in the strengths of the Civil Supplies and Rationing Departments mostly contributes to this increase. The introduction of complete rationing is a necessary step in the Government's fight against inflation, and this is being extended in the Province as quickly as administrative machinery for the same can be set up.

All austerity measures which were in operation prior to the last decontrol have been reimposed and these, *inter alia*, provide a restriction on the entertainment of guests to 25, and on the use and extraction of "fines". Export of foodgrains to other Provinces and States has been entirely banned except under the Basic Plan. To check smuggling into adjoining Provinces or States, a special Enforcement Staff has been posted at vulnerable points. All these steps have eased the food situation in the Province and have also brought down the prices of certain foodgrains, more especially in the Jullundur Division. There has also been a marked improvement in the arrivals of bajra in the markets. Maize also came to be offered at control rates. As a part of their plan in connection with reimposed control measures the villagers have been assured a due share of all essential requirements if they are asked to part with their foodgrains produce for the benefit of other consumers. Cloth supplies have been guaranteed to them by opening controlled distribution depots in village circles as well as towns. Men with low and modest incomes are assured cloth supplies on the basis of ration cards. Similarly, the kerosine oil control assures supplies of kerosine oil according to *per capita* share of total arrivals from a licensed retailer appointed for groups of roughly ten villages each. It is hoped that with proper planning, continued help from the Government of India and with the co-operation of the people it should be possible to keep the food situation well under control.

*Police*—During the current year the expenditure on Police is expected to be Rs. 2,92 lakhs. As against this figure, the expenditure estimated for the next year is Rs. 2,82 lakhs, the decrease being due to lesser expenditure on the purchase of arms and ammunition. Our Police Force, along with the Armed Forces, is employed for the

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protection of the border—316 miles—and a large number of pickets and striking Police reserves are being maintained for the purpose. Being a border Province several security measures have had to be adopted to maintain law and order and to prevent espionage within the Province. The present strength of the Police Force is something like 21,591 officers and men. East Punjab should have had no more than a strength of 10,347 on the basis of pre-war strength of Police Force of joint Punjab and 14,176 on the basis of the pre-partition strength of that Force. Our present strength, therefore, is far greater than what would have been required had East Punjab not been a border Province of the Indian Dominion. To maintain the Police at this increased strength is beyond the present means of this Province and we have already approached the Central Government to give us substantial financial assistance to meet this increased expenditure on Police.

**Beneficent Departments**

Our expenditure on beneficent Departments has steadily increased. In 1947-48 (7½ months) an expenditure of Rs. 1,72 lakhs was incurred on various Beneficent activities. During the current year according to revised estimates an expenditure of Rs. 3,66 lakhs is expected. Next year it is anticipated that the expenditure will amount to Rs. 4,01 lakhs. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 4,01 lakhs as now provided, Education claims Rs. 1,81 lakhs, Medical and Public Health Rs. 75 lakhs, Agriculture Rs. 71 lakhs, Veterinary Rs. 24 lakhs, Co-operative and Industries Rs. 25 lakhs each. As Hon. Members will presently find the share of Industries has been considerably augmented for industrial rehabilitation.

*Education*—Out of the total provision of Rs. 4,01 lakhs for beneficent Departments, Education gets a major portion, viz., Rs. 1,81 lakhs which gives a ratio of 45 per cent. This is a source of gratification, for without a proper emphasis on education it is not possible for us to make any great headway in other directions also.

Advancement in the field of education is much needed and it is being accelerated by the introduction of compulsory primary education including the primary education of girls, gradual conversion of a certain number of existing primary schools into Basic type of schools, the opening of new vernacular middle schools and, last but not least, the organisation of adult education which is now described as *sociae education*.



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It is hardly necessary for me to emphasise how important each one of these items is in the interest of the extension of educational facilities in this Province. It may be pointed out in passing that the problem of mass education must of necessity be tackled at both ends of the scales by admitting a large number of pupils to our primary schools and by extending the benefits of education and, in the course of time, literacy, to the vast proportion of our illiterate population. Social education has rightly assumed a very important role in our new democratic set-up and it is the intention of our Government to spare no effort in promoting it. In order, however, to meet the need for increased educational facilities, it will be necessary not only to equip our Government Institutions but also to provide financial assistance to deserving non-Government high schools which are rendering very useful service to the community.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that it is intended to continue intensive course in Physical Education which was organised at Taradevi—the headquarters of the East Punjab Boy Scouts Association. The desirability of imparting Military training to scholars in schools and colleges has also not been lost sight of. We are taking full advantage of the National Cadet Corps Scheme made by the Government of India, Ministry of Defence. Both Senior and Junior Divisions of this Corps have been organised this year. It is intended to expand this Corps and it is expected that the total number of Junior Division Cadets in schools next year will be 4,220 and the number of Senior Division Cadets under training in Colleges will be 2,260.

*Medical and Public Health*—We have amalgamated these two departments in conformity with the recommendations of the Bhole Committee and though for the present this amalgamation is only at the top, it will, as a next step, be extended to rural areas. To improve medical facilities, the Jullundur and Karnal Civil Hospitals were modernised during 1948-49, and specialist staff is now attached to both these Hospitals where full facilities for X-ray and laboratory diagnosis are available. For future it has been decided to modernize one District Headquarters Hospital each year instead of two as previously contemplated. This reduction has been considered necessary in view of the paucity of material and also of the available funds. The plan of provincializing certain privately-run hospital centres is making satisfactory progress and the Lady Hailey Women's Hospital, Bhiwani, Women's Hostel attached to the Glancy Medical College, Amritsar, Civil Hospi-



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tals, Kalka and Kulu and the District Board Dispensary at Kotgarh were provincialized during the current year. It is contemplated to provincialize during the next year Rai Bahadur Sir Gujar Mal-Kesra Devi Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Amritsar, and the Civil Hospital at Hissar. As an experimental measure the Walker Hospital, Simla, was taken over by Government and run as a paying Nursing House for a period of six months with effect from 1st May, 1948. In view of considerable increase in the population of Simla and with a view to augment the existing medical facilities here, it has been decided to continue this experiment right up to the end of the year 1949-50. A new scheme of mass vaccinations in T. B. has been initiated at the instance of the Government of India. It envisages inoculation of children between the ages of 1 to 18 years to try to give them immunity from T. B. for life. For this purpose a foreign team of experts has arrived in East Punjab who will not only inoculate children but also train during their stay here teams of Indian Doctors who can continue the work. The Government of India have agreed to meet the entire expenditure on this foreign team of experts and also supply free all the B. C. G. vaccine required for this purpose. Besides, we have provided for an expenditure of Rs. 68,000 on our Indian team of experts.

Hon. Members will be glad to know that the Medical College at Amritsar and its associated Hospital have been improved and brought up to date by the addition of staff, equipment etc. This institution was inspected by the Medical Council of India's Inspectors and though not so far recognised as a teaching institution for awarding M.B., B.S. degrees, it will, we hope, be soon recognized for that purposes.

On the Public Health side, while there is improvement on last year's condition the sanitation of bigger towns is still not satisfactory. Measures to combat plague undertaken by local bodies with the financial assistance of Government have not proved as successful as we had hoped them to be, and the taking over of this work under the direct supervision of Government is now under consideration.

*Agriculture*—The revised expenditure under Agriculture during 1948-49 stands at Rs. 75 lakhs inclusive of sum of Rs. 35 lakhs for the purchase and distribution of seeds. As against this, next year's provision,

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exclusive of the amount required for purchase of seed, stands at Rs. 71 lakhs. This means a net increase in the provision made of Rs. 31 lakhs. This is partly due to the cost (Rs. 14 lakhs) of reclaiming 10 thousand acres of land in the area of Jumna river in the Karnal district where land is being reclaimed at the rate of 75 to 100 acres a day and partly to the undertaking of the Research and Grow More Food Schemes, such as Improvement of pastures and Research scheme on the Wilt disease of gram, etc. (*Hear, hear*).

The prosperity of East Punjab will depend upon its agricultural development and our agricultural experts are very optimistic about the agricultural development of our Province. They are busy on production of improved seeds, on experimenting with the possibilities of growing high quality cotton and on developing the fruit industry on modern and up-to-date lines. An ambitious scheme for reclaiming 5 lakh acres of land has also been prepared and sent up to the Government of India. If the proposal of getting a loan from the International Bank materializes, the reclamation of this land in East Punjab would be possible. Government have under contemplation the enactment of certain legislations regarding (a) eradication of some pernicious weeds, control of insect pests and disease causing serious destruction to crops, (b) use of improved seed, (c) proper conservation of manure in villages and compulsory composting in urban areas, of nightsoil, refuse etc., which at present not only goes to waste but is a potential source of infectious diseases and insanitary conditions in our towns, and (d) control of Sugar Factories to ensure fair deal to cane-growers.

Nor have we neglected agricultural education. The Government Agricultural College (now functioning at Khalsa College, Amritsar) is being shifted, for the present, to the premises of the Malwa Khalsa High School, Ludhiana.

A scheme for sinking 40,000 percolation wells on subsidised basis during the next five years is awaiting sanction at the hands of Central Government. In the meantime, however, about 14 lakhs of rupees have been given as taccavi to the cultivators during the last year for sinking wells. About 2,500 tons of ammonium sulphate have also been supplied to cultivators at 25 per cent concession in price to increase food production.

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There is a noticeable progress in the work of catching and marketing fish. About two lakh pounds of fish have been caught and marketed during the last ten months.

*Veterinary*—Closely allied to Agriculture are the activities of the Veterinary Department. The Expenditure on our Veterinary Department is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 24 lakhs against which their receipts amount to about Rs. 4½ lakhs. The activities of this Department mainly comprise improvement of livestock, their care and prevention against diseases. They are also giving their attention to Dairy Development work, the great importance of which is obvious, for the supply of good milk is one of the factors which contribute to the maintenance of health. A Veterinary College has been started at Hissar while the work relating to "Poultry Husbandry and Fisheries", which are more akin to the Veterinary Department than to Agriculture, has been transferred to the administrative control of the Veterinary Department from that of the Agriculture Department.

*Co-operation*—The expenditure under Co-operative Department will increase from Rs. 17 lakhs during 1948-49 to Rs. 25 lakhs during 1949-50. Since partition the Co-operative Department has had to contend with serious difficulties because most of the assets of East Punjab Co-operative Institutions were locked up in West Punjab. The two Heads of Departments in East and West Punjab have been busy settling these accounts and a balance nearly 2½ crores of rupees is stated to have been mutually struck in favour of the Co-operative Institutions of East Punjab. Action to secure a speedy implementation of these schemes is now under way and after we succeed in securing settlement of these accounts, the Co-operative Department will be in a position to rehabilitate itself on a satisfactory footing. The Department has, therefore, provided for their increased activities during the year 1949-50. During the year 1948-49, Government had to advance a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs to enable our Co-operative Institutions to meet some urgent demands for withdrawal of funds which were made by members. In the matter of expansion of the Co-operative movement, about 150 new societies of various types, namely Co-operative Stores, Cattle Breeding, Fruit Growing, Industrial, Multi-purpose, Housing, Soil Conservation, Transport, Consolidation of Land Holdings, etc., have been registered.

*Industries*—In the matter of industrial development, I am glad to report to the House that a remarkable progress has been made

even beyond my own expectations. I made an exhaustive review of the industrial progress in the Province during the year 1948-49 in my speech at Ludhiana on the 17th February, 1949. Much though I would like to do so to-day again, I regret space forbids me from undertaking that task in my present address. I shall, however, give a few salient features of the industrial activity which we witness to-day in the Province.

In these days of dwindling production, it rebounds to the credit of East Punjab, whose economy had been shattered by partition, that it has made great improvement in the production of industrial goods. In the Ambala division, production has exceeded the normal by over 20 per cent. In the Jullundur division, production has returned to normal in Ludhiana and Jullundur and has come to about 75 per cent in Batala and Amritsar. The flight of capital from the Province to Delhi, U. P., etc., is fast returning to the Province and a number of Punjab industrialists who had migrated to other provinces have returned to the Province and more are asking for facilities to come back (*Hear, hear*). The number of registered factories in the Province has risen from 547 to 713 during the last year. Besides, 112 new companies, with an authorised capital of Rs. 3,50 lakhs, were incorporated during 1948. Again, 457 new firms (in partnership) and 42 new societies were registered. All this has been made possible by the facilities which our Government gave in the matter of labour, capital, power, raw materials and transport.

Trained labour in East Punjab was mostly provided by Muslims and with their migration its scarcity became the greatest problem in East Punjab. Arrangements were, therefore, made to train as many people as possible in various crafts, specially those which were predominantly manned by Muslims, such as leather-working, weaving, black-smithy, hosiery, oil-pressing, pottery, etc. Eight thousand one hundred and seventy-three persons are being trained in these crafts all over the Province. It is expected to increase the number of trainees in the near future and to make available to provincial industry about 20,000 trained workmen during the next two years, who will change the industrial map of the Province. (*Hear, hear*). Thus, you will find, Sir, that the East Punjab Government was utilizing finances to raise the dignity, status and material condition of the poor and the down-trodden in East Punjab. Never before



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in the recent history of East Punjab, have any Government set up such a large number of training and production centres as has been done by the present Government during the brief space of the last few months. (*Hear, hear*).

To increase the cloth production of the Province, Government started 14 centres, and more are being sanctioned, for hand-spinning and hand-weaving of cotton and wool and by now more than 11,000 spinners are employed in these centres. The yarn thus spun is converted into cloth and by now more than 2 lakh yards of cloth have been manufactured and disposed of. To further encourage production of textile on cottage basis, Government, as an experimental measure, have since sanctioned a scheme for making 25 villages self-sufficient in the matter of cloth production. This will provide ample proof, if proof be needed, of the solicitude which the East Punjab Government cherish for the welfare of the rural classes in the Province. (*Hear, hear*). To increase the sugar production of the Province a new experiment of manufacturing gur from date-palm has been set on foot by Government. Further, the East Punjab Government secured an allotment of three sugar factories in the Province and steps are being taken to allot the same.

One of the most important schemes of the Government is to establish new industrial colonies in the Province. Arrangements in this connection are almost complete and these new industrial areas, are being set up soon at Panipat, Sonapat, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Jullundur and some other stations. With the birth of these new industrial areas, East Punjab will witness an industrial activity which will be the envy of other provinces. (*Hear, hear*).

In order to stimulate industrial development in the Kangra Valley, Government have set up a survey party which has already started working. Loans and subsidies have also been sanctioned to some enterprisers in the Kangra Valley. The Government of India have also deputed a geologist for the mineral survey of the Valley, who has already gone much ahead with his work.

With Banking institutions completely paralysed in the Province, Government had to come to the financial rescue of the people. A sum of about Rs. 70 lakhs was distributed in the various districts under the Refugees Grant and Loan Act to small traders and industrialists. Loans amounting to about Rs. 22 lakhs were recommended

to the Finance Administration for industrial purposes. And loans amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs and subsidies amounting to Rs. 1,10,000 were sanctioned under the State Aid to Industries Act, whose rules were liberalised the other day. Through the efforts of the Government, insurance facilities have now been restored to almost normal. The increase in the activities of the Industries Department is evident from the figures of the budget (Ordinary and Rehabilitation) of this Department. The amount provided on this account is over 2 crores of rupees and this is a stupendous and a record figure which so far no Provincial Government has set apart for industrial activities. (*Hear, hear*).

### **Buildings and Roads**

The normal activities of the Buildings and Roads Department, such as maintenance of roads and buildings, sanitary and electrical services were carried out during the course of the year in spite of the difficulties of finding skilled and semi-skilled labour and the general shortage of materials. Damages to roads and bridges as also to buildings caused by the floods had to be repaired.

In addition to this, this Department have had to do a lot of work in setting up Refugee houses, and planning the extension of some of our existing towns. Their energies were also devoted to the repair of evacuee houses and shops in urban areas, and during August-September, 1948, they had to plan certain emergency transit camps at a very short notice.

### **Relief and Rehabilitation**

From amongst our Miscellaneous Departments the most important is our Relief and Rehabilitation Department. On the efficient working of this Department, depends not only the future prosperity and well-being of millions of our inhabitants but the very day-to-day comfort and solace of my unfortunate brethren who have had to fly for their lives from the West Punjab leaving all they possessed behind in Pakistan. During the year 1948-49 we spent Rs. 8.05 lakhs on the Relief of Refugees and another Rs. 3.28 lakhs on their Rehabilitation exclusive of loans granted to refugees. During the next year we propose to spend Rs. 3.60 lakhs on the Relief side and Rs. 4.70 lakhs on their Rehabilitation. These are not very large sums of money, I admit, when property worth rupees one thousand to rupees one thousand and five hundred crores has been left by our displaced



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brethren behind. The spending of this comparatively paltry sum, set apart by Government, may invoke a cynical smile on their part. Those who lived in comfortable dwellings of their own and are to-day roughing up their meagre existence under canvas and in contact with mother earth—what do they think of what we have been able to do for them? I dare not guess their thoughts. They have taken their losses and their sufferings as the expression of the Divine Will and their past culture teaches them to bow before that Will. They have shown patience in their adversity and it speaks volumes for their grit and determination that a goodly percentage of them have entered the battle for existence afresh with hardly any capital except their own resourcefulness. In this hour of trial the best that was in the Punjabi has come out and I for one have faith in East Punjab's future. We have been tried and tested on the hard anvil—the anvil of adversity—and we have not been found wanting. (*Hear, hear*)

We had something like 17½ lakhs rural refugees on our hand who had left behind 6·8 million acres of land in West Punjab. These we hope to settle permanently during the next two or three months on 4·3 million acres of land left behind by Muslims evacuees of East Punjab.

To my urban displaced brethren, I am afraid I must offer an apology. The task of rehabilitating them has been a most difficult one and that not because Government did not have the will, nor because Government officers appointed for the job did not try their utmost, to help and speed up the work of their rehabilitation, but because the very nature of urban resettlement is so very much more difficult and so very different from the work of rural resettlement. Urban settlement cannot but be a very slow process, more so because of the disruption our economy by this mass migration of population. Those who left East Punjab were mostly manual workers, artisans, skilled or semi-skilled and those who came over were mostly petty shopkeepers, small traders or industrialists. Those who came in, therefore, could not automatically take the place of those who had left.

### Capital and Loan Account

I would now like to review very briefly our Capital and Loan Account.

Our Capital expenditure during 1947-48 amounted to Rs. 1,42 lakhs and the revised figures for 1948-49 show this expenditure to be of the order of Rs. 8,27 lakhs—a total of Rs. 9,69 lakhs up to the end of 1948-49. Out of this, Productive Capital Expenditure amounts to Rs. 7,29 lakhs. Against this Productive Capital Expenditure, loans aggregating to Rs. 7,60 lakhs (carrying interest at the rate of 2½ per cent per annum and repayable in one instalment after 15 years) have, so far, been taken from the Government of India. The Capital Expenditure which has been provided in the Budget for 1949-50 is Rs. 19.85 crores out of which Rs. 15 crores would be on productive Capital Schemes (Irrigation Rs. 8 crores; Electricity Rs. 6½ crores and Industrial Development Rs. 2½ lakhs). Against this we have provided for a loan of Rs. 15 crores, but have been promised only Rs. 10 crores.

The positions of Loans and Advances given out by our Government is as follows:—

(In lakhs of rupees)			
	<i>Advances.</i>	<i>Recoveries.</i>	<i>Difference.</i>
1947-48 (Accounts) ...	1,09	2	—1,07
1948-49 (Revised) ...	3,99	6	—3,93
1949-50 (Budget) ...	6,16	47	—5,69
Total ...	11,24	55	—10,69

The majority of these loans are for Refugees. The total loans likely to be given out to Refugees by the end of 1949-50 are Rs. 10,43 lakhs as detailed below:—

(In lakhs of rupees)

1947-48	... 94
1948-49	... 3,67
1949-50	... 5,82

The Government of India have so far given us for this purpose a loan of Rs. 3,00 lakhs (carrying interest at 3 per cent per annum re-

payable in 5 years by annual equated instalments). For the next year we have asked for a loan of Rs. 5,82 lakhs.

Other loans taken by us from the Government of India to finance expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation are as below :—

(i) *Ways and Means Advances---*

1947-48 ...	2 crores
1948-49 ...	5 crores
<hr/>	
Total ...	7 crores
<hr/>	

(ii) *Loans for Housing Scheme—*

1948-49 ... 2½ crores

The Ways and Means advances aggregating Rs. 7 crores are likely to be repaid as the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation is allocated and adjusted between the Central and Provincial Governments. The Government of India contemplate to charge 2 per cent interest on these advances, but we are representing for remission of these interest charges as these advances were intended for expenditure which was chiefly the concern of the Central Government.

The loan of 2½ crores of rupees for Housing Scheme bears interest at 3½ per cent annum and is repayable (by half yearly equated instalments) in 15 years.

*Likely Financial Adjustment with West Punjab*—It is anticipated that the financial adjustment with the West Punjab will result in a net credit of about Rs. 22 crores to East Punjab and this will be on the assumption that the debt liability of pre-partitioned Punjab would also be shared between East and West Punjab in the ratio of 40 : 60 as awarded by the Arbitral Tribunal. Personally I am in favour of taking over our portion of pre-partitioned Punjab's debts and not leaving this liability entirely with West Punjab Government to discharge. In case this is not done, the net amount due to East Punjab by West Punjab would be approximately Rs. 10 crores which we should be able to recover almost entirely in cash because Rs. 13.89 crores worth of Government of India securities held by the Government of pre-partitioned Punjab are still lying undivided with the Reserve Bank of India. Out of these, the share of West Punjab is about Rs.

8.33 crores and if we take these over the debt to be paid by West Punjab in cash to East Punjab would be about Rs. 2 crores only.

The financial picture as painted above will, I trust, assure the Hon. Members that at the end of the year 1949-50 our Province would not be badly off. With a judicious control of its expenditure on the one hand, and a willingness to levy fresh taxation, that is justified, on the other, and with a reasonable standard of efficiency in the collection of taxes, etc., the Province should be self-supporting, if it has not the misfortune to face any other extraordinary problems like Relief and Rehabilitation, or heavy expenditure on the border etc.

The Province has a bright future before it. I am convinced of it. We shall in another 4/5 years have enough electrical energy for all our industrial needs. Agriculturally we should soon be the granary of India again. It is, however, not any physical advantages that make a country or a province great, but the men at the helm of its affairs, and above all its inhabitants. When the record of East Punjab Government is studied, in the background of their baffling problems and almost insurmountable difficulties, the Muse of History will not grudge them some praise for a very difficult task, accomplished with almost superhuman efforts. For all this our thanks are due to all officers and the rank and file of East Punjab Government. But it is the inhabitants of East Punjab—Punjabis all—more than any one else, that I have my faith and confidence in. Those who could face adversities of the type faced by no other country in the world, and yet come out, though dazed at first, in full control of their powers of mind and body, must win through to the top again. So onwards we face the future with confidence! (*Hear hear*).

And now, Sir, I have finished, and must sit down, but before I do so, I must thank all the officers and staff of the Finance Department and commend their work to this House. Without the willing co-operation of the staff, the Department would not have shown the record it has done. I am particularly grateful to the Finance Secretary, Sardar Kartar Singh Malhotra, (*Hear hear*) but for whose hard work and intelligent guidance and co-operation, it would have been difficult for me to manage the finances of the Province. Upright, dignified intellectual, and a good writer, he has given his best to the

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

Province. (*Hear hear*). He has given ample proof of his independence of judgment and he is one of the officers who never allowed their minds to be vitiated by communalism. (*Hear hear*) He has had to fight many a battle with the various Departments of the Government, but in none of these did he ever import any heat or personal element. His sole guiding motive was the financial health of the Province. And I must acknowledge that he has proved himself to be a skilful financial physician and surgeon.

I must also express my thanks to Shri Sanjiva Rao, who was our Financial Adviser until the other day when he laid down his office owing to failing eyesight. An unassuming and an amiable gentleman, he gave the Public Works and Civil Supplies Department the benefit of his sound financial advice. I wish him better health.

I would be ungrateful if I omit to express my gratitude to Shri Badri Nath Chopra, (*Hear, hear*). Under-Secretary (Finance), who has, by his very hard and intelligent work, made himself indispensable to the Finance Department. He is endowed with a practical knowledge of men and affairs, which is so necessary for examination of the various schemes and plans of a government. He is thoroughly honest and efficient and his experience of budgeting covers a period of over 26 years. Neither I nor the Finance Secretary could do well without him.

Shri Khazan Chand Bhasin, Assistant Secretary (Finance) must also have his share of my appreciation of the Finance Department. He is one of the oldest hands in the Finance Department and is due to retire shortly. Like other officers in the Finance Department, his approach to work has always been impersonal and his conduct unimpeachable. In diligence and industry, his record has been second to none.

Last though not least, our thanks are due to Shri Chandra Mohan, another Assistant Secretary (Finance), who is entrusted with the financial side of rehabilitation work. He is infectiously good-natured and his integrity is above reproach. The Rehabilitation Department feels grateful to the hard and intelligent work he has put in for them and for his helpful attitude.

*Minister for Finance—contd.*

Thus, we have worked like a happy team, each understanding the other, in perfect harmony which is not usually found elsewhere. We shared common aims and ideals and kept up high traditions of administration such as are expected from a Finance Department.

On behalf of the Government, I have also to pay a tribute to the valuable assistance we received from Shri R. C. Khanna, who has for another year presided over our accounts as Accountant-General in the Province. (*Hear hear*). An unbending and therefore, a welcome critic of our accounts, he has laid down rigorous standards of auditorial scrutiny and his advice has been useful to us in many respects.

And now, sir, I beg to present the Budget for the year 1949-50. (*Applause*).

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Tuesday, 8th March 1949.*



# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 8th March 1949*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### FORMATION OF AGENCY TO EXAMINE THE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES OF THE PROVINCES.

\*671. **Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether any official agency functioned in the East Punjab during the year 1948 to examine the Legislative and the administrative measures adopted so far by other Provincial Governments in India:
- (b) Whether the Government have considered any report submitted by the agency?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) Yes. The Legislative measures adopted by other Provincial Governments are being examined by the Legislative Department of East Punjab Government *vis-a-vis* the existing Provincial Laws with a view to bringing the measures to the notice of the Department concerned for adaptation by legislation, if necessary.

- (c) Does not arise as no report is to be submitted by the Legislative Department.

SUPPLY OF ADULTERATED ATTA AT GOVERNMENT FAIR PRICE  
ATTA SHOPS

**\*673. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether any complaints about the adulteration and ill grinding of Atta (Wheat Flour) supplied to the Government Fair Price Atta shops or to the public by these shops, have been received by the Civil Supplies Department ;
- (b) the names and addresses of the Government Fair Price Atta Shops in the Province against whom such complaints have been received throughout the Province ;
- (c) If the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative what action, if any, has been or is intended to be taken in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Yes. Some complaints were received. These were of general character and did not relate to any particular shops.
- (b) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.
- (c) Enquiries were made and action taken to rectify the defects in the quality of atta. In a number of towns during controlled distribution option was given to purchase grain or atta. Under rationing, which has been introduced in 20 important towns, consumers have the option to take foodgrains in the form of atta or grain.

SCARCITY OF KEROSENE OIL IN THE VILLAGES.

**\*676. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that kerosine oil is not easily available in the villages of the Province and that the agents and dealers are selling it at black market rates. What action, if any, does the Government propose to take to check this evil ?

**The honourable Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**Government have received complaints that kerosine oil is selling at exorbitant rates. To meet the situation the East Punjab Kerosine Oil (Price and Distribution)

Control Order, 1949, has been issued and it is proposed to start the rationing of kerosine oil with effect from the 1st of April, 1949.

### SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*679. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a large number of people in villages lying in the slopes of the Shivaliks in thanas Amb and Hajipur of Hoshiarpur district are in great trouble for want of pure drinking water ;
- (b) Whether it is fact that the Government of the undivided Punjab sanctioned a scheme known as Durehra Water Supply Scheme for these villages and spade work in connection with this scheme was also done ;
- (c) Whether the Government intend to take in hand the scheme referred to above and remove the difficulty of the villages affected in this behalf ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) Yes. There is a scarcity of water in certain areas of thanas Amb and Hajipur of Hoshiarpur District.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes. The scheme for Durehra Rural Water Supply has already been included in the 5 Year Post War Plan, which is under the consideration of Government.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** When will this scheme be enforced ?

**Premier :** When Post War Schemes are finally decided upon, it will be put into force.

## CHEAP GRAINS DEPOTS IN TEHSIL UNA

\*682. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Primer be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Cheap Grains Depots opened by the Government in Tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur, grains were sold at a higher rate of price than available in the local market ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that on account of comparatively high price at Government Depots referred to above, most of the poor people of the villages refused to avail of foodgrains at such depots ;
- (c) What action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** (a) No, except for gram.

- (b) Government have no information. This is not rationing, but a measure of relief in deficit areas. There may be a few persons who may have abstained from taking advantage of the concession in view of (a) above. As explained in Press Note No. 2757-I.B., dated 15th February, 1949 (copy laid on the table) in spite of comparatively high prices of gram the consumer on the whole stands to gain ultimately.
- (c) None in view of (b) above.

PRESS NOTE

It has come to the notice of the East Punjab Government that the discrepancy prevailing at present between the prices of rationed gram or gram atta and its current market rate has been adversely criticised in a section of the press.

These comments are based on the misunderstanding of the nature of the two categories of prices. The rationing price carries with it an obligation on the part of the Government to feed the rationed population, irrespective of the rise or fall in the market rate the rationing price does not ordinarily vary.

The market rates are usually subject to serious fluctuations and the possibility of such rates being higher than the rationing prices cannot altogether be ruled out.

It will be realized that it is not administratively feasible to adjust the rationing prices according to day to day fluctuations in the market.

The present price of rationed gram or gram atta represents approximately the rate at which it can be supplied to the people without any additional cost to the tax-payer. It is based on the net purchase price plus charges on account of storage and transport which the Government has to incur in order to meet the needs of the people throughout the year from one corner of the province to another.

The market rates are determined by economic factors without any commitment to feed the people as a whole.

It may be recalled that the Government has been supplying wheat or wheat atta in the rationed areas at about Rs. 17/- per maund retail whereas the market rate was generally more than Rs. 23/- per maund and considerably higher in some areas.

It has been worked out that an average family of three adults and two children would have to spend about Rs. 16/- for its thirty days' rations under the present scheme while the same quantity of rations would cost that family nearly Rs. 20/7/-, had the prices of foodgrains not been fixed under the rationing scheme.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** May I know if the Government has considered the desirability of supplying foodgrains to the poor people at market rates ?

**Premier :** People can purchase foodgrains at the rate which we have fixed. They can make extra purchases at the market rate if they so desire.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** How do the Government reconcile the excess of Rs. 1/12/- per maund they are charging from the public for the supply of grams, which are selling at the rate of Rs. 9/8/- per maund in the market ?

**Premier :** I have already stated that those who do not wish to purchase grams from the Government Depot, can do so from the market.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the Government issue instructions that purchasing of grams by the public will not be compulsory ?

**Premier :** This is not possible. If we issue such instructions then people will confine their purchase to wheat only. But we feel that popularising of grams as our staple food is essential to make up the deficit of foodgrains.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know why the Government rate for gram is higher than the market rate ?

**Premier :** Since Government have to incur certain expenses over and above the purchase price, the Government rate will obviously be higher.

[ Premier ]

This extra expense must fall on the consumer because Government cannot afford to pay it from its own pocket.

UNDER TRIAL PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM WEST PUNJAB.

\*554 **Sardar Sajjan Singh.** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of the under trial prisoners received from West Punjab in April, 48 who were detained under section 3 of the Public Safety Act, after their repatriation ;
- (b) the nature of the offences they were arrested for :
- (c) the number of prisoners who originally belonged to those parts of the province now called the West Punjab and the East Punjab respectively?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**(a) 126

- (b) Murder, attempt to murder, culpable homicide, rioting, unlawful assembly, kidnapping, abduction, rape, grievous hurt, hurt with deadly weapons and unlawful possession of arms.

(c) West Punjab —120

East Punjab—6

REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS OF PAKASWA FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF PUNITIVE POLICE TAX IMPOSED ON VILLAGE BHAULAT, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

\*556. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether certain residents of village Pakaswa owning land in village Bhaulat district Rohtak represented to the Deputy Commissioner to be exempted from the Punitive Tax, on the ground that they were not residents of Bhaulat and were being forced to pay Punitive Police Tax, if so, with what result ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** Enquiries made reveal that certain resident of village Pakaswa applied to District Magistrate, Rohtak for exemption from payment of punitive



tax on account of location of Additional Police Post at Bhaulat. These were rejected by District Magistrate, Rohtak on the ground that they were holders of landed property in village Bhaulat and were thus residents of the disturbed area under section 15 of the Police Act V of 1861.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that punitive tax has been imposed on those persons also who are not residents of village Bhaulat and that they have been made to pay the tax because they own land in that village ?

**Minister :** This is exactly the reply that I have given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do the Government consider it proper to impose punitive tax on certain persons who do not at all reside in a particular place where the tax has been imposed ?

**Minister :** Under Section 15 of the Police Act they are also liable to pay the tax. If any individual case is brought to our notice, it will be examined.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is this law not defective because the intention of the Government is to impose punitive Tax on the delinquents only?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is an expression of opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government is justified in imposing Punitive tax on persons who are not residents of that particular village ?

**Minister :** This is the hon. Member's opinion about a legislative Measure.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do the Government consider the desirability of making an amendment in the rule regarding imposition of punitive tax to the effect that those people should not be made to pay who are not residents of a place?

**Minister :** This is a suggestion worth examining.

## SURVEILLANCE BY THE POLICE ON SARDAR HARI SINGH.

\*566 Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the movements of Sardar Hari Singh, Member, East Punjab Provincial Congress Committee and a Provincial Congress social worker of village Sundh, district Jullundur are being watched by the C.I.D. Police, now-a-days ; if so, the reasons for the same ;
- (b) whether Sardar Hari Singh saw the hon. Premier and the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue and represented against the watch on his movements ;
- (c) whether he made a request to the hon. Premier and the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue to and the aforesaid surveillance by the C.I.D. Police ; if so what action, if any, the Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes. The second part of the question does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether, when Sardar Hari Singh saw the hon. Minister, he complained to him that his movements were being watched by the Police ?

Minister : Yes, he made such a complaint but at present his movements are not being watched.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : But was he under watch when he met the hon. Minister ?

Minister : I do not recollect this. As a matter of fact I do not remember when he met me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if political workers, who are Congressites, are kept under surveillance by the C.I.D. ?

Minister : No, Sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government have received the record of Political workers from the West Punjab Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise out of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the movements of political workers other than Congress workers are watched by the Police ?

**Minister :** To which political workers is the hon. Member referring ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the hon. Minister is capable of thinking of any political worker other than a Congress worker ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

REPORT MADE BY DISTRICT AUTHORITIES, HOSHIARPUR  
AGAINST PANDIT MOHAN LAL DATTA M.L.A.

**\*568 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the district authorities of Hoshiarpur recently made any report to the Government against Pandit Mohan Lal Datta, M.L.A; if so, what was the nature of these reports ;
- (b) Whether any enquiry was ordered to be made through the Provincial Congress Committee or otherwise ;
- (c) The result of the enquiry ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** Government regret that it is not in the public interest to disclose the information asked for by the hon. Member, which is of a confidential nature.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** May I know if it is felt necessary to keep such reports confidential even from the hon. Members of this House?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the nature of this confidential report ?

**Minister :** If the report is confidential, its nature is also confidential.

**Mr. Speaker :** Next question please.

REPRESENTATION FOR MAKING FATEHGARH RAJBAB  
(DISTRIBUTARY) PERENNIAL

**575. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether it has come to the notice of the Government that from time to time representations have been made by the people served by the Fatehgarh Rajbah (Distributary), of the Upper Bari Doab Canal at Aliwal in the Gurdaspur district, that this Rajbah should be made perennial ;
- (b) Whether the Government is aware of my representation to the Chief Engineer and the Enquiry Committee set up during the Moga agitation round about Harsa China in Amritsar district for making this Rajbah perennial, if so, what action has been taken thereon ;
- (c) Whether the hon. Minister is aware of my telegram requesting him to keep in mind the difficulties with regard to the canal water supply in border districts of Gurdaspur and Amritsar ;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to convert the Fatehgarh and all other seasonal rajbahs into perennial ones, if so, when, if not, what other action does Government intend to take to remove the difficulties of the *Ilaga* irrigated by this rajbah ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** [a] Yes.

- [b] Yes. No action was taken on the representation due to shortage of water in the river.
- [c] No such telegram appears to have been received by me.
- [d] The whole question is being examined.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OF PROHIBITED BORE.

**576 Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to states :—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that a large number of the weapons of prohibited bore are in the possession of the people in the East Punjab especially in the border districts of Ferozepore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kangra ;
- (b) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that the people who are in possession of these weapons bought them at exorbitant prices, ranging from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 2,000/- ;

- (c) Whether Government proposes to take any action to see that those in possession of these weapons are not deprived of them ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) It is correct that people have paid prices but Government have no information regarding the prices actually paid.
- (c) Government have issued instructions to the District Magistrates to issue licences provisionally, for a period extending up to another year, for such of the unlicensed weapons as were tendered by the 15th of November, 1948. Action is being taken against those who have not availed of the concession. It is not yet proposed to deprive the licensees of their weapons.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** May I know whether it is a fact that the dealers of the weapons of prohibited bore are not holding any licence whatsoever ?

**Minister :** The information of the lady Member is not correct. In some border districts there are licence holders of the weapons of prohibited bore.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** There may be such licence-holders in some districts. May I know if there are such licence holders in the district of Amritsar ? Do the Government intend issuing such licences ?

**Minister :** Licences are issued to those persons who apply for it. The cases of those persons whose applications are recommended by the District Magistrates would be considered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that Government had declared in one of their Notifications that licences would be issued to those persons who submit their unlicensed arms to them. Did the Government also promise to issue licences to those who would submit their weapons to them ?

**Minister :** What is the grievance of the hon. Member ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What I want to know is whether any promise was held out to the effect that licences would be issued to those

persons also in case they returned their un-licensed arms? Was any notification issued by the Government to that effect?

**Minister :** A notification was issued and in pursuance of that notification some people produced fire-arms and got licenses.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any licence been issued to those who applied to the Government for issue of licences for producing weapons of prohibited bore?

**Minister :** Yes, provisionally.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Were such licences issued provisionally or permanently?

**Minister :** There was no mention about "provisional or permanent" in the notification.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that some persons produced their weapons before the Government in view of the promise held out to them to the effect that licences would be issued in their favour? Is it now the intention of the Government to confiscate their weapons?

**Minister :** The hon. Member is losing sight of the fact that he is taking up the cause of those persons who have been in unlawful possession of certain weapons. If a concession has been shown, it does not become a right.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What I want to know is whether the Government intend confiscating the weapons of prohibited bore in the possession of those persons who produced them with the hope that Government would keep up the promise already held out to them in one of their notifications and thus issue licences in their favour?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the promise referred to above was held out to them?

**Minister :** It is a question of a concession and not of an agreement.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that Government by issuing a notification intended to show some kindness towards those who would produce their weapons in their possession?



**Minister:** Of course it was so, because normally if a person produces a weapon for which he has no licence, he can be prosecuted. We knew that there were a number of people who were in possession of arms without licences. It was the wish of a considerable section of this honourable House that some time should be given to such people to produce their weapons and that licences be issued to them. It was in deference to that wish that concession had been shown. It is a concession and nothing more than a concession.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Leaving aside the stand taken by the Government in this connection, in view of the fact that Government did not fulfil the promise already held out to them in one of their notifications referred to above, may I know if it is not a fact that in future people will not repose any confidence in the notifications issued by them?

**Mr. Speaker** Disallowed.

**Premier:** The statement of the hon. Member is not based on facts.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** May I know whether in the opinion of the Government those persons who have produced their weapons are desirable and safe persons?

**Mr. Speaker:** Disallowed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Have the Government any intention to cancel the licences of those persons who are in possession of arms but are undesirables?

**Minister:** Instructions have already been issued to the authorities to review all such cases where licences have been issued and in all those cases where weapons have gone into undesirable hands, licences will be cancelled.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Have the Government any intention to give some compensation to those persons whose licences would be cancelled?

**Minister:** Compensation for what?

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** For cancellation of their licences.

**Minister :** A certain period of time is given within which the man may sell his weapon. There is no question of compensation.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the Government consider the desirability of granting some compensation to those persons whose 38 bore rifles have been confiscated ?

**Minister :** In all such cases the intention is to take away the weapon of prohibitive bore and attempt is made to give in exchange a weapon of non-prohibitive bore at controlled rates.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is it a fact that Government followed the same practice while recovering the unlicensed arms ?

**Minister:** Obviously.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Do the Government hope that in future people would have any confidence in the notifications issued by them ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION FOR LICENCE HOLDERS.

**\*579, Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in the border districts of Kangra, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozpur, the firearms licence holders are mostly allowed to possess 25 rounds or cartridges of ammunition or in some cases at the most a hundred rounds or so ;
- (b) Whether he is aware that in the United Punjab before the last war licence holders were allowed to keep upto 250 to 500 cartridges or rounds of ammunition, in certain cases no limit on the amount of ammunition was fixed ;
- (c) Whether the Government is aware of the present day raids on the borders and proposes to remove the restrictions on the quantity of ammunition to persons holding licences of arms and residing there ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Ordinarily 25 rounds of ammunition are allowed for purposes of protection but District Magistrates have discretion to allow more as and where necessary.
- (b) In the United Punjab District Magistrates had been instructed to see that ammunition for pistols, revolvers and rifles was kept down to the minimum, while gun ammunition was to be limited to reasonable requirements.
- (c) Government are aware of the position and in view of the reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government issued any instructions regarding the grant of licences of revolvers and rifles in addition to those which were in force in the United Punjab ?

**Minister :** This does not arise out of this question. This is about cartridges and not about weapons.

**WARRANT OF ARREST OF TIKKA VIRENDRA SINGH OF  
AMBALA DISTRICT AND CANCELLATION THEREOF**

**\*581. Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether he is aware that the recent murders and dacoities in the Ambala district were committed by certain proclaimed offenders who have formed a regular gang ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the name of one, Tikka Virender Singh of village Sohana, Tehsil Kharar was recently entered in Register X by the local police and the reasons for this action ;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that warrants for the arrest of Tikka Virender Singh were recently issued but subsequently cancelled ;
- (d) The authority on whose instance the warrants were cancelled and also the reasons for the cancellation of the warrants ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No new gangs have been formed recently in the Ambala district nor have any murders or dacoities been committed

**[Minister For Home & Revenue]**

y them. As a matter of fact there has been no dacoity in the Ambala district for the last 3 or 4 months.

- (b) The name of Tikka Virender Singh of village Sohana was never entered in register No.X by the local Police.
- (c) & (d) The warrants of arrest against Tikka Virender Singh were issued by Magistrate, 1st Class, Rupar as he was wanted as a suspect in a case u/s 411/412/414 IPC. PS Chandigarh. These warrants could not be executed and were returned to the court which issued them. Since the suspicion against Tikka Virender Singh was, at a later stage, not substantiated no further action was taken against him.

**RELEASE OF GURDAS SINGH OF LAIHLI  
KALAN DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.**

**\*598 Sardar Piara Singh.** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state ;

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one, Gurdas Singh of Village Laihli Kalan, District Hoshiarpur was undergoing 10 years imprisonment in the West Punjab and has since been brought to Ambala Jail as a result of the exchange of prisoners between the two Dominions ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that he has completed his terms of imprisonment and has not been released so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes. The term of imprisonment however is transportation for life and not ten years.
- (b) First part-No.  
Second part-Does not arise.

**GRIEVANCES OF COMMUNIST DETENUS CONFINED IN YOLE  
CAMP AND OTHERS JAILS OF THE PROVINCE.**

**\*599. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether he received any representations from the communist detenues confined in Yole Camp, Ambala and Hissar Jails about

their various demands and grievances ; if so, what were their demands ;

- (b) Whether they have stated in their representations that in case their demands are not met, they would go on hunger strike ;
- (c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what action does the Government propose to take to remove their grievances ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) Yes. Their demands were :

1. That they should either be released or tried in open court ;
2. That they should be given personal allowances and maintenance allowances should be sanctioned for their families ;
3. That they should be classed as better class prisonors and that their amenities should be improved.

(b) They actually resorted to hunger strike.

(c) Their demands were considered and mostly met, vide East Punjab Government Press Communiqué No. 18960-I.B. dated 27.12.48, a copy of which is placed on the table

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister please tell us if it is a fact that after this notification, the Communists have made another representation stating that their demands have not been fully met ?

**Premier :** Yes, the representation was considered and the decision was taken after due consideration.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know which of their demands have been conceded ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member mentions any particular demand, I would give him the necessary information.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Well, their first demand was that they would be tried openly or released. Was it acceded to ?

**Premier :** No, it has not been conceded.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What about their second demand that they should be kept in their home districts ?

**Premier :** We have not got jails in every district. How can we send every one to his home district ?

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Home Minister has just stated that they had asked for family allowances. What about this demand ?

- 
1. Kept in the Library.

**Premier :** We are examining the case of each individual and we have decided to grant family allowance in deserving cases. The principle involved has been accepted.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Home Minister had stated that most of the demands have been conceded. Has it not become clear from these replies that not a single demand has been conceded? *(Interruptions).*

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it not a fact that before the issue of the notification under reference, every detinue used to get diet costing Rs. 2/4/ per day but now it has been decided to spend Rs. 1/8/- on the diet of 'B' class detenues?

**Minister For Home and Revenue :** This is incorrect.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** May I know if the Government is prepared to release those persons who are not Communists but who have been detained merely on suspicion of being such?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member can bring any such cases to the notice of the Government, we shall certainly consider the matter.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that in the new communique, daily diet worth Rs. 1/8 only has been sanctioned for 'B' class detenues?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I will show him the whole communique.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Did I not bring this matter to the notice of the hon. Home Minister, when I met him at Ambala?

**Minister :** If the hon. member thinks he did, I do not deny.

#### RATIO OF OFFICERS AND RANKS OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS COMMUNITY WISE AND DISTRICT WISE.

**\*640 Shri Virendra :** Will the honourable Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) The exact strength of the National Volunteer Corps in the Province,
- (b) The exact ratio of the officers and the ranks, community wise and district wise?



The honourable Sardar Swarn Singh:

(a) 11620.

(b) A district wise statement is laid on the table.

As regards the community wise ratio I must decline with regret to answer such questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House,

## STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND RANKS OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER

1-1-49  
CORPS DISTRICT WISE AS IT STOOD ON 1-1-49.

District.	Volunteers	Platoon Officers.	Platoon Comdrs.	Town Comdrs.	District Comdrs.	Provincial Comdr.
Amritsar.	1,077	81	42	1	1	One for the entire Province.
Ferozepur.	1 071	86	43	1	1	
Gurdaspur.	657	70	28	...	1	
Kangra.	441	34	17	...	1	
Jullundur.	180,2	75	41	1	1	
Hoshiarpur.	621	54	25	...	1	
Ludhiana.	107,2	96	43	1	1	
Ambala.	750	54	33	...	1	
Karnal.	895	72	33	...	1	
Rohtak.	849	71	35	...	1	
Hissar,	879	70	37	...	1	
Gurgaon.	782	65	36	...	1	
Simla.	177	10	8	...	1	

**Shri Virendra :** Does the statement supplied to me contain the number of those who have been trained under the mass training scheme ?

**Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement that has been passed on to him. The statement will give him all the information and I am sure he will be satisfied.

**Shri Virendra :** What is the number of irregulars in the National Volunteer Corps ?

**Minister:** There are no two categories in the National Volunteer Corps ; all its members are regulars.

**Shri Virendra:** Does the Government propose to extend military training to all the adults in the province ?

**Minister:** The task of giving military training to all the adults is already in hand, but to give mass military training is not the job of the National Volunteer Corps.

**Shri Virendra:** Why is the number of volunteers in Ambala Division less than the number in the Jullundur Division ?

**Premier:** The strength of the Corps was fixed by the members on the floor of the House. A limit for each district was fixed by the House itself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** will the hon. Minister please tell us whether the number of volunteers in the National Volunteer Corps has reached the requisite strength ? If not, what is the reason for that ?

**Minister:** I quite appreciate this question. The hon. Member has not got a copy of the statistics which has been laid on the table of the House. If he will kindly go through that statement, he will see that the deficiency is not much; only here and there there is some difference.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know if any communal proportions are observed in the matter of recruitment to the National Volunteers Corps ?

**Minister:** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that only yesterday the hon. Minister stated on the floor of the House that the same communal

proportion was being observed in the matter of recruitment to services as was being observed in the united Punjab ?

**Minister :** In the first place the National Volunteer Corps did not exist in the united Punjab and in the second place there was no communal proportion fixed so far as recruitment to the police force was concerned.

**Shri Virendra :** If no communal proportion is being observed in the National Volunteer Corps why should there be any hesitation in giving its strength community-wise?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member is very keen about it, he can get this information from me privately.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know if there is a place for women in the National Volunteer Corps?

**Minister :** We do not want to put more burden on our sisters; they are doing a lot of social services in various spheres.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In view of the circumstances in which our province is placed, is it not considered necessary that women should also have military training?

**Premier :** So far as the question of military training is concerned, they are already receiving it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there any difference between the National Volunteer Corps and the Civic Guards of the Unionist Regime ?

**Minister :** Yes, the difference between the two is as great as between the two poles.

#### ARRESTS OF R. S. S. WORKERS.

**\*651 Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of R.S.S. workers recently arrested in the

Province ;

(b) how many of them have been released on making an apology ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh ;**

(a) 3524

(b) 172

**PANSALS OF CANALS SITUATED IN PAKISTAN.**

**\*662. Sardar Isher Singh Mujhail:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of villages in Amritsar District whose canal water Pansals are situated in the Pakistan ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Pansals through which the water is supplied to villages Nowsera Dala and Mohawa, Police Station Gharinda, are situated in villages Padana and Thehpura [Pakistan] respectively;
- [c] Whether it is a fact that the villages referred to above are not receiving waters due to them on account of their Pansals being placed in Pakistan;
- (d) Whether the officers concerned have received any representation from the residents of above noted villages for making arrangements for the installation of new Pansals in their areas;
- (e) What steps, if any, have been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Eight villages,
- (b) One of the outlets for village Nowsera Dala lies within Pakistan territory. Village Mohawa is exclusively outside the irrigation boundary of any chak.
- (c) No. An area of 133 acres of village Nowsera Dala of which the water supply was cut off has been added to upper outlet and its supply restored. The question about village Mohawa does not arise.
- (d) & (e) The zamindars of village Mohawa have been applying to extend irrigation to their area from the tail of Thehpur Minor,

[Minister for Home & Revenue]

Minister of Kohali Distributory. The case is under investigation and question of extending irrigation to this village depends if and when the water is made surplus.

### COMMITTEE FOR LAND REFORMS IN THE PROVINCE.

\*678. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- [a] Whether it is a fact that the Government decided as far back as the last budget session of the Assembly that a Committee for land reforms would be appointed to go into the disputes between the landlords and the tenants of agricultural lands in this province ;
- [b] whether it is a fact that no such committee has been formed and consequently no enquiry about such disputes has been made up till now ; if so, the reasons for the delay ;
- [c] whether Government is also aware of the fact that a large area of land remained uncultivated owing to the disputes between landlords and tenants in the province ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

[a] Yes.

[b] The Committee has been formed and it has been directed to make necessary enquiries and make recommendations as early as possible.

[c] No such report has been received by Government.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister kindly state the time limit for the term " as early as possible " ?

**Minister :** As soon as they finish the work, they will submit the report.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** May I know the number of members representing the interests of landlords and also that of the tenants on the committee ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to say whether a particular member represents the interests of landlords or that of tenants.



**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Is it a fact that the majority of the members represent the interests of landlords ?

**Minister :** It is wrong to say so,

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Is the Government prepared to make any interim arrangements so long as the report of the committee is not published ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why so much delay has been caused in the constitution of the committee when the matter has been under the consideration of the Government for more than a year ?

**Minister :** It is correct that some time has been spent on the constitution of the committee but the problems which faced this province in the matter of agrarian questions were not simple and it was due to the urgency of the rehabilitation work that the personnel of this committee and the constitution could not be announced. It was not known as to what the picture would be after the rehabilitation and a scheme or a programme in which the rehabilitation did not fit in would not have been a wise thing.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the Government have told the All India Agrarian Committee that no agrarian problems exist in the province ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member's statement is not correct.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Do the Government contemplate to abolish zamindara system in the province ?

**Minister :** This is a very general question and the expression "zamindara" is not known to the tenancy laws of this province.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know if the Govrenment took into consideration the appointment of those members who represent the interests of tenants at the time of the constitution of the committee ?

**Minister :** I do not think any prticular member of this House hsa been partial towards any individual but we have taken all care that almost all interests are represented on the committee.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know if the Government would consider the advisability of including one more member representing the tenants' interests on the committee ?



**Minister:** I regret I cannot commit the Government for the inclusion of any individual member and I will request the hon. Members of this House not to place us in an embarrassing position by suggesting one name or the other because that thing might go on.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram:** Has the Government given any instructions to the Chairman of the committee to complete their work during this session ?

**Minister:** The instructions are that the committee should make report as early as possible.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know what are the principles according to which the members have been appointed on this committee by the Government ?

**Minister:** To represent areas in which there is some sort of agrarian question and also to represent various view points, for instance two of the hon. Members represent landholders. There are no separate constituencies for tenants so far as this House is concerned but members who have been taking interest in the tenants have been included as members of this committee.

**Sardar Bachan Singh:** Does the hon. Minister for Revenue remember that during the last session he promised an hon. Member to take him on this committee ?

**Minister :** I made no such promise.

#### ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN HARYANA DISTRICT TO HARIJANS

**\*560. Pandit Shri Ram Shrama:** Will the Hon. Mfnister for Releifa nd Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any areas of land in the Haryana districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal have been set apart, for allotment to Harijan Refugee tenants ; if so, how much and where ?
- (b) Whether Harijans originally belonging to Haryana district but working as tenants in the West Punjab, were shown any consideration in the allotment of land for cultivation; if so the allotment so far made to them ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:**

- (a) No separate areas have been set apart in the Haryana districts for allotment to Harijan tenants from West Punjab.

- (b) Harijan tenants from West Punjab belonging to the Haryana area were allowed, equally with other refugee tenants, to take temporary allotments during rabi, 1947-48. There were no separate instructions for their settlement.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of Harijans, who were tenants in West Punjab but have been allotted land in Haryana Prant ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member requires the figures separately, I can find these out.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharama:** Were Harijans to be given preferential treatment ?

**Minister:** Harijans who came from the West Punjab were at liberty to avail of the temporary allotment of lands. Temporary allotments have not been cancelled provided the allottee committed no breach of law.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it not a fact that those who were tenants in the West Punjab cannot be allotted land in the East Punjab

**Minister:** This is the position from 1st April, 1948. Prior to that everybody was entitled to get land.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is the hon. Minister aware that there are many Harijans in Haryana Prant who were tenants in the West Punjab and have not been allotted no land ?

**Minister:** This is the position after 31st March, 1948. From 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, temporary allotments were made irrespective of the fact whether the allottee was a landlord or not in the West Punjab.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is the hon. Minister not aware of the fact that the grievances of the poor people cannot reach the Government ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Disallowed.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will Harijans who have been allotted lands temporarily, be deprived of these on permanent allotment ?

**Minister:** I may tell the hon. Member that those who owned land in the West Punjab, would get their share in the permanent allotment.

**Chaudri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government promised to make permanent allotment of 76,000 acres of land in Karnal to Harijans ?

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that as a result of the present policy of the Government, thousands of persons who were allotted land temporarily, would be deprived of it ?

**Minister:** From 1st April, 1948 it has been ordered that only those persons should be allotted lands, who possessed these in the West Punjab

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Will the Government undertake to compensate poor zamindar refugees who have a number of children but have not the means to support them ?

**Minister:** As I have already stated, lands are to be allotted to those who were landlords in the West Punjab. As regards others, they can be helped in other ways.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that while urban refugees have the opportunity of availing of Rehabilitation loans etc., started by the Government, no such facilities exist for the rural people ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Disallowed.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** Is it not a fact that a deputation of Harijans waited on the hon. Minister and he was pleased to promise them that he would allot 50,000 acres of land properly cultivated by tractors to the Harijans ?

**Minister:** Hon. Member enquires about matters which are not public.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** These are not private matters.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** What effect will this policy of the Government namely, to allot lands only to those who were landlords in the west Punjab, have on the production of food ?

**Minister:** It will have good effect.

RECOVERY OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BILLS FOR  
SUPPLIES MADE IN PAKISTAN.

\*570. **Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the payment of outstanding bills for supplies made to works executed for and services rendered to the Government of the pre-partitioned Punjab and due to persons who have since been shifted to the East Punjab ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** In pursuance of an inter-Dominion agreement arrived at New Delhi in the month of December, 1948, a committee consisting of 2 representatives of each of the Governments of East and West Punjab has been set up in order to dispose of the claims preferred by contractors and other persons in respect of the supplies made and services rendered by them to the late Punjab Government during the prepartition period. This Committee is now holding its meetings and it is expected that it may be able to dispose of the claims before long.

COMPENSATION FOR STOCKS LEFT IN PAKISTAN.

\*571. **Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to State whether any claims for compensation have been received by the East Punjab Government from displaced Hindu and Sikh traders for :—

- (i) stocks and merchandise in general, and
- (ii) stocks of controlled commodities like wheat, rice, steel, cloth, etc., in particular, which the owners thereof were not free to sell or move except without an authorisation of the Government of the prepartitioned Punjab and were left by them in the West Punjab ; if so, whether Government has taken any action on these claims ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (i) Non-Muslim refugees from West Punjab and other parts of Pakistan registered their claims for stocks and merchandise in general with the Registrar of Claims in this Province.

[Premier]

(ii) Stocks of controlled commodities were also in most cases registered by the refugees with the Director General, Food and Civil Supplies, East Punjab.

A committee consisting of officers of East and West Punjab Governments has been set up to consider the question of compensation for stocks of controlled commodities like wheat, rice, etc., and the matter is still under discussion and negotiation. In regard to abandoned stocks of steel, East Punjab Government have approached the Government of India for taking up the matter with the Dominion of Pakistan at Dominion level. With respect to stocks and merchandise in general, these are a part of evacuee property to which the recent inter-dominion agreement concluded between the Dominions of India and Pakistan applies.

#### LAND ALLOTMENT IN GURGAON DISTRICT TO REFUGEES

**663. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of land on which Muslims have been resettled in Gurgaon District ;
- (b) the number of Muslim evacuees who have left for Pakistan together with the area of their land left by them in the District ;
- (c) the area of the land which has been got vacated from the refugees and allotted to Muslims ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** (a).—29,835½ acres (Cultivated).

- (b) (1) No. of Muslim evacuees—1,32,401.
- (2) The area of abandoned—2,36,214 acres (1,83,163 cultivated and 53,051 uncultivated.

(c) Nil.

**Pandit Shri Ra m Sharma :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that no refugee is prepared to settle in the area in which Muslim Meos lived ?

**Minister :** That is why they have not been allotted that area.



## ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO REFUGEES IN AMBALA DISTRICT

**\*664. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Muslims in Tehsils Jagadhari, Naraingarh, Ambala, Kharar and Rupar in Ambala District who had abandoned their villages but did not go to Pakistan and have since returned and resettled there;
- (b) the number of Hindu and Sikh refugees who have been unsettled once again as a result of the rehabilitation of these Muslims;
- (c) the total area in the District on which Muslims have been resettled;
- (d) the number of Hindu and Sikh refugees who have been thus deprived of their lands where they were settled or were being settled?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

(a) Jagadhri Tehsil	...	7,940
Naraingarh „	...	4,270
Ambala „	...	14
Kharar „	...	32
Rupar „	...	21
		<hr/>
		12,277
(b)	...	664
(c)	...	16,256 acres.
(d)	...	664

### RENT ON LANDS OF EVACUEE OCCUPANCY TENANTS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*681. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that certain areas of land which were before partition—occupied by muslim occupancy tenants in the Hoshiarpur District, have been allotted to local residents on lease money which is 3 to 6 times the land revenue assessed

[**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta**]

for these lands, whereas the Government has to pay the local landlords of these areas rent which amounts to ten to twelve times the land revenue.

- (b) The total amount of money realised as rent from allottees together with the amount paid by the Government to the landlords of such lands in tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** It is correct that lands of evacuee occupancy tenants in the Hoshiarpur district have been leased out to local residents. Rents are charged on the following scale :—

- (1) Where the evacuee occupancy tenant was paying rent to the landlord in *batai*, the resident tenant at will, who has now taken the land on lease, will pay rent at six times the land revenue or at the rate of *batai* payable by the evacuee occupancy tenants whichever is greater.

- (2) In all other cases at six times the land revenue.

- (b) Rs. 31,455/- have so far been realized as rent for Rabi 1948 from the allottees in Una tehsil, but nothing has yet been paid to landlords as the necessary statements are under preparation.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Is it not a fact that the Government has to pay to the local landlords as much as ten times the amount it realises from the local residents ?

**Minister :** Of course, the Government pays more than it realises but it is not ten times.

#### NATIONALISATION OF THE MOTOR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY.

**\*638. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government intends nationalising the Motor Transport Industry in the Province ; if so when ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** Government have appointed an Officer on Special Duty to Examine the question of nationalisation of passenger transport. A final decision will be made when his report is received.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that there is a difference of opinion among the Ministers on this question ?

**Minister :** It is wrong.

**Shri Virendra :** Will the Government take all the transport services simultaneously or in parts ?

**Minister :** I have already replied.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government finally decided to nationalize motor transport ?

**Minister :** A final decision would only be possible when the special officer has submitted his report.

**Shri Virendra :** How long will the Government take to arrive at some decision in this matter ?

**Minister :** As soon as we receive the report.

**Shri Virendra :** What is the definition of 'as soon as' ?

**Premier :** You had better consult a dictionary.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Government take the Members of this House also into confidence while considering this matter ?

**Minister :** Of course.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Hon. Minister know that Government thought of nationalising this industry once before as well ?

**Premier :** Yes, I should say when you were wielding power.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Why should not the Government stop considering the scheme until the report of the special officer is submitted and the views of the Members of this House ascertained ?

**Minister :** There is no such scheme being taken up.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will not the Government motor service affect the work of private companies which cater for small distances, say ten or twelve miles ?

**Minister :** Supplies of petrol to these companies is not reduced.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Was not the predecessor of the hon. Minister of the view that nationalization would not be put through for at least three years ?

**Minister :** I cannot answer this question.

**Premier :** I am surprised to find Thakur Dalip Singh opposing nationalization.

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APPLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE PROPOSED CAPITAL.

**\*641. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government had invited applications from the refugees for purchase of land in the proposed Capital of the East Punjab ;

(b) the number of persons who have applied for the purpose ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

(a) Yes. Applications have been invited for sites of all categories in the New Capital from people desirous of settling in the New Capital, irrespective of their being refugees or non-refugees.

(b) The total number of applications so far received is 34,332 out of which 27,020 are from refugees. In addition applications for over 10 thousand houses on auction basis have been made by refugees from Rawalpindi district.

**Shri Virendra :** When will the Government start selling plots for the capital?

**Minister :** When all preliminaries have been completed.

**Shri Virendra :** How long will that take, Sir? Moreover will any preference be given to the refugees ?

**Premier :** Land will be given to all those who apply.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it possible for the hon. Minister to say that the possession of sites will be given to the intending purchasers before 31st March 1950 ?

**Premier :** Well, I am not in a position to say that.

**Shri Virendra :** Are any foreign engineers being invited for the capital ?

**Premier :** Not yet.

**Shri Virendra :** Do the Government intend to do so ?

**Premier :** If the Government think it necessary they will do so.

**Seth Ganga Saran :** Is there any difficulty about building the capital?

**Premier :** There is no difficulty.

**Landit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the scheme cannot be taken in hand unless the Government of India agree to give the necessary loan ? Is it also a fact that they have refused to sanction the loan ?

**Premier :** They have not refused but I cannot say anything about it as yet.

#### SCARCITY OF FODDER.

**\*572. Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the approximate quantity of fodder needed for deficit areas in the Province due to the failure of kharif crops this year ;
- (b) what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to meet the scarcity of the fodder in the Province ;
- (c) whether any arrangement for the import of the fodder has so far been made by the Government ?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

- (a) The approximate quantity of fodder required for deficit area in East Punjab is estimated at about 4,00,000 maunds. These estimates have been arrived at on the basis of cattle population and stocks of fodder available.
- (b) To meet the fodder requirements of deficit areas fodder stocks to the extent of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lac maunds have been procured from

**[Minister for Development]**

Ferozepore district. In addition to the above 20,000 maunds of fodder have been made available from the produce of Government Livestock Farm Hissar, by way of rushing interim relief to the badly deficit areas of Rewari Tehsil till large supplies of fodder from private sources become available for importing into this area. The movement of fodder both from Hissar and Ferozepore districts by rail has already commenced and is in progress. In addition to the movement of fodder from outside districts into the deficit districts local movements on a large scale from surplus to deficit areas within the districts concerned are also going on.

- (c) As it has been reported that there are fodder scarcity areas in or in the vicinity of Central Provinces, United Province and Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Government have decided not to import any fodder from these territories.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Sir, answers to questions of hon. Members who do not know English should be read in Hindustani.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram:** Yes, Sir; the answers to my questions should be given in Hindustani.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please name the areas in the East Punjab where there is great scarcity of fodder?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang):** Bahadurgarh and Sampla in Tehsil Jhajjar.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please say as to what is the extent of the shortage?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have already supplied the information I possessed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** How much fodder has been supplied to the scarcity areas?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** For that I require notice.

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## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PUNITIVE POLICE POST IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*171. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the areas in Amritsar district in which Punitive Police Posts were stationed under section 15 of the Police Act during the period 1st January, 1920 to 31st December, 1926 ;
- (b) the total amount assessed on the inhabitants of each area on this account ;
- (c) the total amount collected in each area ;
- (d) the total cost borne by the Government for keeping the Police force in each of such area ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** It is regretted that detailed information about punitive police posts located and abolished in Amritsar district during the period 1st January, 1920 to 31st December, 1926, is not available as old records in most cases have been destroyed.

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### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE CANAL OFFICERS OF SPECIAL REVENUE DIVISION UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL CIRCLE, AMRITSAR.

**\*172. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister the Home and Revenue be pleased to state the total amount paid as Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowance to the Executive Engineer, each of the sub-Divisional Officers, Deputy Collectors, Overseers, Zilladars and Readers, respectively working in the special Revenue Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar, during the period 1st April, 1948 to 31st December, 1948 ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** It is regretted, that the time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

# REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF VARIOUS CANALS IN THE UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL CIRCLE.

**\*173. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the names of all the canal distributaries, canal minors, sub-minors taking their offshoots from Kasur branch, Lower Sabrai Branch, Main Branch, Upper Bari Doab and Lahore Branch;
- (b) the total amount sanctioned for repairs and maintenance of all the channels in Majitha and Jandiala Division of Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle during the year 1948-49;
- (c) the total amount actually spent on repairs and maintenance during the period 1st April, 1948 to 31st December, 1948, on each of the main branch, distributaries minors and sub-minors referred to in part (a) above;
- (d) the total amount spent for strengthening the banks of each of the channels to avoid breaches during the period referred to above?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

			Rs.
(a)	A statement is laid on the table†		
(b)	Majitha Division	... =	2,86,000/-
	Jandiala Division	... =	2,43,514/-
(c)		Main Canal and Branches.	III Distributaries.
		Rs.	Rs.
	Majitha Division	... = 86,198/-	1,21,873/-
	Jandiala Division	... = 62,243/-	84,948/-
(d)	The expenditure is not booked separately for each Distributary minor and sub-minor and hence the figures are not maintained.		

†Kept in the Library.

SHIFTING OF AREA OF LAND OF VILLAGE SABRAI,  
TO PATTI DISTRIBUTARIES FOR IRRIGATION  
PURPOSES.

**\*174. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a proposal was taken up by the canal authorities that area of village Sabrai, District Amritsar under the command of outlet R. D. 65,440-R—Khara distributaries of Jandiala Division be shifted to Patti distributaries for irrigation purpose ;
- (b) the date on which this proposal was taken up together with the progress, if any, made in this case ;
- (c) the time likely to be taken to carry out the proposal referred to above ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No.
- (b&c) Do not arise,

## PRIVILEGE MOTION

## LEAKAGE OF BUDGET.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very important matter concerning the privilege of the House. A news item appears in the 'Hindustan times' in its issue of the 4th March, 1949 which relates to the Budget presented to this House on the 7th March, giving certain facts and figures from the Budget. It is the prerogative and a privilege of the House that all the documents that are presented to it should not be released to the Press before their actual presentation. It is, therefore, a clear breach of privilege of the House that certain major items contained in the Budget should have been published in a newspaper before the Budget had been presented. My submission, therefore, is that a committee may be constituted by you or by the Government to go into the matter and make its report so that those who are responsible for this leakage should be punished.

**Mr. Speaker:** It would have been better if the matter had been brought to my notice before it was brought before the House in the form of a privilege motion. I have not as yet seen myself the report in the paper mentioned by the hon. Member. I shall, however, see the whole thing and examine it to find out whether there has been a breach of the privilege of the House. If I come to the conclusion that it is a breach of privilege, I shall take suitable action.

**Premier:** I would ask the hon. Member through you, Sir, whether he is in a position to say as to who is responsible for this leakage. I quite agree that what has taken place is not the right thing, but I would like to know if the hon. Member has got any information as to who is responsible for this thing and whom he wants to punish. Unless he can give you that information, it will not be possible for you to punish anybody.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Sir, the fact remains that an important document has been released to the Press before its having been presented to the House and therefore it is a breach of privilege. It affects the prestige of the House and I would request you to constitute a committee to go into the matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** As I have already stated, I shall go through the press report and if I come to the conclusion that a breach of privilege has occurred, I shall take proper action or ask the Leader of the House to do so. So long as I do not examine the matter it is not possible for me to say anything one way or the other. The whole question will be gone into by some committee, if necessary, and a decision taken.

## ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

### LEAKAGE OF BUDGET.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General Rural) : Sir, I ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I know about what the adjournment motion is ?

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** About the leakage of the Budget.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I respectfully submit to the chair that the matter that has been brought to the attention of the House by Mehta Ranbir Singh, concerns the Budget and it is most important both from the point of view of the prestige of the House as well as that of the Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** But I have already decided this question. The adjournment motion that Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta wants to move is about the same matter as his privilege motion. It does not make a difference whether the matter is raised through a privilege motion or an adjournment motion. And I am not going to allow the matter to be discussed at this stage. I have already told the hon. Member that I want to study the question from all its aspects before giving my opinion.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Would the House be given an opportunity to discuss the matter ?

**Mr. Speaker:** That would depend on the conclusions that I arrive at.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Sir, I would like to know whether the Leader of the House has to make any statement on the subject. If he makes a statement the matter might be facilitated and possibly I may not feel the necessity of moving this motion. However I would like to know whether my adjournment motion is in order or out of order?

**Mr. Speaker:** I disallow it.

#### ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO WESTERN PAKISTAN REFUGEES.

**Sardar Sardul Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore West, Sikh, Rural):

Sir, I ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation arisen due to the decision of the Rehabilitation Department, East Punjab, Government, regarding the graded cut scheme of quasi-permanent allotment of Muslim Evacuee lands to the Western Pakistan refugees based on wrong valuation of lands in terms of standard acres.

**Mr. Speaker:** During the general discussion of the Budget the hon. Member will have an opportunity to discuss this question. The previous practice also has been not to allow adjournment motions to be moved during the Budget session. For the same reason, I disallow the adjournment motion.

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## AGRICULTURAL PESTS, DISEASES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS BILL.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill.

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, although the motion that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration is not on the list of business, yet I would like to move, with your permission:

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** According to the Rules "no business not included in the list shall be transacted at any sitting except business of a formal or ceremonial nature which may be permitted by the Speaker". If the House unanimously agrees to suspend the operation of this Rule I will permit the consideration of the Bill, otherwise not.

**Shri Virendra:** Sir, what is the motion?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Premier seeks permission to move a motion that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration today. This motion is not on the List of Business for the day and I will allow it only if the House unanimously agrees; otherwise I will not permit the consideration of the Bill today.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** We would like to know the reason why the Government wants to rush through this Bill.

**Premier:** When I first sent the programme for this session to the Assembly Department, I was not anxious that this Bill be considered today. But when the executive committee of the party met the other day, they desired that the report of the Select Committee be taken into consideration on the day of its presentation and the Bill passed. There is nothing controversial in this Bill and in order to dispose of the work earlier I agreed to this suggestion. But if the hon. Members think that they want more time to study the report I have no objection and I will not press the motion moved by me. If the House agrees, only then I will press it.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I know if the House unanimously agrees to take up the motion, that the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration?

*The House unanimously agreed.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### Clause 1.

##### Sub-clause (2).

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause [2] of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 2.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 3.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to item (iii) in this clause. It says:

“prohibit or restrict the movement or removal of any plant, earth, soil manure or other thing from one place to another.

To me it looks that it has been made too wide by including manure, etc., and even earth in its scope. I think this part gives too much power.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, the Government has considered this part carefully, and it is necessary to keep it in the Bill. When certain plants are affected by noxious weeds the movement of those plants has to be restricted and there are certain diseases which contaminate the earth also. Then removal of that earth becomes necessary to avoid further infection to plants. Therefore it is essential to include earth also.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clauses 4 to 13.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That Clauses 4 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 1.**

**Sub-clause (1).**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill be passed.

This Bill, which has been thoroughly considered, vests certain powers in the Department of Agriculture to check agricultural pests, diseases and noxious weeds. There are several diseases the specific

(Minister for Development).

treatment of which is known to the Department. These remedies were applied by certain farmers before. But theirs were individual efforts and so were unable to check the spread of these diseases. The powers conferred by this Bill will enable the Department to put an end to this state of affairs. In this connection I may point out that the hon. Shri Jai Ram Das, Food Minister, Government of India, stated the other day that the loss which India suffered on account of these diseases amounted to a staggering figure of 500 crores of rupees. Now when this Bill becomes an Act, it will prove a great step forward in the direction of relieving the shortage of food grains. With these words I commend this Bill to the House for acceptance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## PUBLIC SAFETY BILL.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, I present the Report of the select committee on the East Punjab Public Safety Bill.

At this stage I only want to submit that this Bill which was referred to a select committee has been gone into by the select committee clause by clause and certain modifications have been suggested.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The Report of the select committee has not been supplied to the Members.

**Mr. Speaker :** Copies are being printed.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How are we to express our opinion ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Nobody is asking you to express your opinion at this stage.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I was submitting, Sir, that in deference to the wishes of the House, this Bill has been considered and some modifications suggested. At this stage I only wanted to request that the passage of the Bill may be expedited as it is feared that the Governor's Act on this subject will expire if the Bill is not passed during the present session.

## DISTURBED AREAS BILL.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
I beg to present the report of the select committee on the East Punjab Disturbed Areas Bill.

## SPECIAL TRIBUNALS BILL.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
I beg to present the report of the select committee on the East Punjab Special Tribunals Bill.

## ELECTRICITY (EMERGENCY POWERS) BILL.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
I introduce the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I move—

[1] That the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be referred

to a Select Committee consisting of—

Sardar Ajit Singh

Dr. Sant Ram Seth

Shri Behari Lal Chanana

Shri Virendra

Sardar Ujjal Singh and

Chaudhri Lehri Singh

[2] That the quorum of the select committee shall be 3 ;

[3] That the Select Committee be asked to submit its report within a week.

**(Minister for Home and Revenue).**

At this stage I do not want to examine the provisions of the Bill in any detail. This Bill is already on the Statute Book in the form of a Governor's Act and like all Governor's Acts, it will expire sometime about the middle of August next. It is, therefore, essential that it should be placed on the Statute Book permanently. The position with regard to the supply of electric energy has not eased on account of the shortage of material and it is considered necessary that control on the distribution of electric power as also upon certain electric supply companies continues as otherwise it is feared that they will not be discharging their duties in the interest of the public. The Bill will be gone into by the select committee clause by clause and if they find that there are certain provisions which are no longer necessary on account of changed conditions, those provisions will be omitted. Any other suggestions or modifications will also be carried out if they are considered desirable. With these few remarks I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

- [1] That the East Punjab Electricity [Emergency Powers] Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Sardar Ajit Singh

Dr. Sant Ram Seth

Shri Behari Lal Chanana

Shri Virendra

Sardar Ujjal Singh and

Chaudhri Lehri Singh.

- [2] That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

- [3] That the select committee be asked to submit its report within a week.

*The motion was carried.*

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## SUGAR FACTORIES CONTROL BILL.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :  
Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill.

**Minister for Finance** (*Hindustani*) : I move—

- [1] That the East Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh

Sardar Ujjal Singh

Chaudhri Samar Singh

Sardar Inder Singh

Chaudhri Rattan Singh

Sardar Bachan Singh

Shri Dev Raj Sethi ;

- [2] That the select committee be directed to submit its report by the 20th March ;

- [3] That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be four.

Sir, at this stage I wish to make a few observations with regard to this Bill. No control whatsoever has so far been imposed on the Sugar Factories in this province. Very recently the price of sugar in comparison to the price of gur had shot up to abnormal levels and the conditions created by this abnormal rise resulted to the detriment of the interests of the sugarcane growers in the province. There was a growing demand for sugar and the conditions created by the factories were mainly responsible for causing undue panic and confusion in the minds of the sugarcane growers. Keeping in view the conditions which were prevailing at that time in the country, the managements of the sugar factories, instead of selling sugar at a reasonable rate, vied with each other in disposing off their produce at exorbitant rates. Consequently the poor sugarcane growers suffered heavily while the management of the factories made huge profits. It is really most unfair to allow the factory-owners to continue making excessive profits by selling sugar produced from sugarcane at the cost of sugarcane

**[Minister for Finance]**

growers. It is on account of this fact that Government has felt it necessary to bring before this House a Bill to provide not only for the licensing of sugar factories and regulating the supply and price of sugarcane intended for use in such factories, but also to put certain limitations on the activities of the purchasing agents, with a view to do justice to both the sugarcane grower and the factory management. Government has also felt it to be its bounden duty to safeguard the interests of the sugarcane growers.

The Bill now before the House is of vital importance. At present the position is that there is only one sugar factory in the province of East Punjab. There are already two factories in the Kapurthala State. But these are now under the jurisdiction of Patiala and East Punjab States Union. With a view to have this Bill extended to PEPSU territories we are contacting the Government of India. As soon as this Bill is put on the Statute Book we shall try our best to get it extended to this Union of states, because sugar factories in Kapurthala mainly obtain sugar cane supplies from the adjacent areas of this province. We want to protect the interests of cane growers of this province and therefore it is necessary that Kapurthala Factories should also come within the purview of this measure. The object of this Bill is to regulate the manufacture of sugar and the supplies and prices of sugar cane. Obviously the need for this measure can hardly be exaggerated. In my view, it is a measure of great importance especially because the East Punjab Government has now decided to grant permission for setting up of three more factories. We have received a number of applications for this purpose, which are under consideration. The matter will be decided after full consideration. There are already two sugar factories in Kapurthala. After the establishment of three new factories, there will be in all six sugar factories in East Punjab and Patiala and East Punjab States Union. Thus it will be necessary to bring these six factories under control with a view to regulate the supplies of sugar cane. I may again emphasise that the real object which the Government intends to achieve through this measure, is the protection of the interests of sugar cane growers. With these words I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :—**Motion moved—

- [1] That the East Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh

Sardar Ujjal Singh.

Chaudhri Samar Singh

Sardar Inder Singh

Chaudhri Rattan Singh

Sardar Bachan Singh

Shri Dev Raj Sethi ;

- [2] That the Select Committee be directed to submit its report by the 20th March, 1949 ; and

- [3] That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be four.

*The motion was carried.*

## CONSERVATION OF FIREWOOD SUPPLIES BILL.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) :** I introduce the East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies Bill.

**Premier (*Hindustani*) : I Move—**

That the East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, before the partition, for quite a number of years, a very large quantity of firewood and even timber was taken away from the forest plantations of the United Punjab for war purposes and even those plantations which ought not to have been cut, were deforested with a view to meet the military requirements. In 1946, the then Provincial Conservator of Forests informed the Government of the United Punjab that if steps were not immediately taken to conserve the forest plantations, there would soon be an acute shortage of firewood in the province. It was then that the control on firewood supplies was first introduced.

The shortage of firewood supplies is also partly due to the fact that in the course of mass migration of population, that immediately followed the partition, people cut the trees on the roadsides to obtain firewood and thus the firewood supplies were further depleted. The result was an acute shortage of firewood in the province and its prices went on rising. Most of the districts of this province are deficit in firewood supplies. Excepting the districts of Ambala and Karnal, no other district is surplus in firewood. It was in view of this shortage of firewood in the province, that an Ordinance was promulgated on the 7th December by which the export of firewood from these two districts was banned and the system of export by permits was introduced. After that, no one has been allowed to export firewood from these districts except a permit-holder. It will not be out of place to mention that arrangement for wagons was also made for those dealers who were granted permits. Owing to the paucity of coal supplies, firewood is also being used in some factories and brick kilns. This is another cause of the shortage

of firewood. Now the firewood supplies of this province are not at all sufficient to permit its unbridled use, nor can we let its prices and distribution remain uncontrolled, particularly in view of the rising prices. As the Ordinance on the subject is to expire shortly, this Bill has been brought before the House. In order that the Government may be able to continue its control on firewood supplies and its prices, which has already shown its usefulness, it is necessary that this Bill may be passed without any delay.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

### Clause (1)

#### Sub-clause (2)

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clauses 2 to 9.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is -

That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 10.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) *Hindustani* :  
I move -

That for Clause 10, the following be substituted :

“ An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable.”

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Sir, in this connection I beg to submit that our experience for the last 3 or 4 years, first in the United Punjab and then in the East Punjab, has shown that our efforts to impose control on essential goods or commodities have met with little success. The general public opinion is that whatever legislation is enacted, its provisions are not strictly enforced in the province. It is also true to say that the offence committed being not cognizable the officers in charge try to hush up the irregularities and shield the persons contravening the orders by accepting illegal gratification from them. With this lacuna in the present Bill, it is likely that this legislation might not achieve the desired object. It is often observed that if any person filed a complaint against something done in contravention of any order, the department concerned often takes no notice of it, with the result that the guilty persons go unpunished. I therefore submit that the Government will appreciate and realise the need of making a provision in the Bill that the offence committed under this Act shall be made cognizable. In this way it would be possible to deal effectively with the persons guilty of contravening any order contained in the Bill, through the police agency,

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved.—

That for clause 10, the following be substituted :—

“An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable.”

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my honourable Friend Sardar Bachan Singh. It is no doubt true that the imposition of control on essential goods and commodities was at first considered undesirable. But under the prevailing conditions in the province it has become necessary that such measures may be adopted in order to regulate the price and distribution of the available supply of goods to the public. It is significant to note that the commodities on which control is imposed, often disappear from the market but the lack of rigid control on the part of the Government to carry out such measures, is mainly responsible for this. I am of the opinion that those who advised the Government to abolish controls and to rely exclusively on the economic forces to bring down prices at reasonable levels, have been proved as false prophets. At this stage we can no longer afford to experiment in free trade and give free hand in profit making. An equitable system of distribution of goods at controlled prices is a pre-requisite to any effective plan to check the inflationary trend of prices. It will be found that according to Section 10 of the Bill no court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a report in



writing of the facts constituting such offence made by a person authorised by the Provincial Government in this behalf. This means that the police interference is not possible and the officers in-charge may connive at offences deemed to have been committed under this Act. Similarly I know of the Sharda Act in which also the offence committed is not cognizable. In case any instance of contravention of any orders in the Act is brought to the notice of the proper authorities, the necessary steps are taken in this behalf. I fail to understand if the said Act can in this way bring about social reform in the country. Clause 10 in the Bill, as at present stands, is obviously faulty as nobody will come forward to lodge a complaint against the guilty person unless he has got any grudge or ill-will against him. Besides this, such persons who have personal influence with the Government officials may get the matter hushed up. The result would be that such a legislation would not serve any useful purpose and the object for which it is enacted would be defeated. I know that the police department is generally blamed for not keeping high standard of integrity and some might put forward a plea that the conditions are not likely to improve if such powers are vested in the police. But at the same time I feel that it is necessary to provide for control over the distribution and supply of firewood with a view to securing equitable distribution of its supply to the public at reasonable prices. I am also of the view that the police should take cognizance of such offences punishable under this Act. The fear of police interference will have a deterrent effect upon the public. I know that many honourable Members may not feel inclined to arm the police with these additional powers, but I feel that the persons guilty of contravening any orders contained in the Bill must be challaned by the police so that the provisions of the Bill may be strictly carried into effect. It is in this manner that the control will prove a success.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am really surprised at the amendment given notice of by **Sardar Bachan Singh** which is at present under discussion before the House. I fail to understand that an experienced parliamentarian like **Sardar Bachan Singh** who had been vehemently criticising the police department in the past should give notice of such an amendment. He has changed his position all of a sudden. It is very difficult to say at this stage whether the proposed amendment will be really useful as

[**Shri Behari Lal Chanana**]

the time itself will reveal. I know that the honourable Home Minister will welcome such an amendment but I have to see in what light the hon. Premier views this suggestion. According to my hon. Friend, whenever control is imposed, it fails to achieve its object because the officials of the Department entrusted with its administration accept bribes and take no action against the offenders. I hope that the hon. Premier, who is in charge of General Administration, will give his opinion, whether it is actually so or not. The hon. Minister for Home welcomes the amendment. I trust that the hon. Premier and the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue will confer and then enlighten the House about their views on the matter. Nobody who has any love for his country, will oppose the principle of imposing controls when they are needed and especially when almost every essential article has been subjected to it. It is not the question of fire-wood control only. If this amendment is accepted you will be giving very wide powers to the police and will be placing a high premium on them. You are placing more faith in the police than in the Civil Supplies Department or in the general public. Until the views of the hon. Premier and the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue who are oppositely affected on account of the portfolios held by them are known, we are not in a position to decide this question. The disclosure of their views will provide an interesting study of the matter.

**Sardar Bachan Singh:** We want to end the black market.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana.** I shall be glad to see it ended. So far, I thought that you did not hold a high opinion about the police but regarded it the source of all evils. Today, however, I am astonished at the amendment proposed by Sardar Bachan Singh, and hope that he will not change his views about the police, with whom he has contracted new friendship.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I agree with Sardar Bachan Singh that when Government imposes control on certain articles, that control should be complete and effective but in my opinion the method suggested by him will aggravate the trouble. He desires to make the offences under this Bill cognizable. Let us look at the restrictions which this Bill imposes. A fire-wood or a charcoal dealer will have to take licence from

the Civil Supplies Department. The owner of a factory or a brick kiln has to keep accounts in the prescribed form. No business can be done without obtaining permits. For ensuring the proper observance of the provisions of the Bill, the Government will appoint a suitable authority, who will report breaches of law and will bring offenders to book. The police should not be given powers of harassing a firewood dealer or a kiln owner. If such wide powers are given to them, this trade will be crushed and corruption will increase. The difficulties of the Government will multiply and firewood or charcoal will not be available at reasonable prices. On account of these harassments no respectable person would carry on fire-wood business. I therefore submit that the amendment proposed by Sardar Bachan Singh will give rise to further difficulties and should not be carried.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh** (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, I also want to say a few words on this subject. Before I discuss the proposed amendment, I wish to tell you what Bania or Lala mentality is. These people are not afraid of the officers of Civil Supplies Department. When an officer of this Department visits a depot-holder, he asks the latter to carry on his activities without any fear, as he will be able to hush up any complaint that may be made against him. But now, if a firewood dealer knows that if he keeps false accounts or commits some other offence, he is liable to be arrested by the police, he will surely think twice before doing any thing contrary to law.

We are told that if the offences are made cognizable brick kilns would be closed and firewood dealers would give up their business. Who is responsible for this state of affairs? The black-marketer does not wish to do honest trade. He has foiled repeated attempts of the Government to enforce controls. We have to devise means of putting an end to black market. When a depot holder knows that his license can be cancelled by a police officer, he will act properly. It is therefore essential that a Lala.....

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member to avoid using the term 'Lala'.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh:** In order to prevent a depot-holder from carrying on his malpractices, it is essential that the proposed amendment should be carried. The Police Department is a Department of the people themselves. There are no Englishmen left in this Department. Probably the complaint

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh]**

of the depot-holder is that he will have less or no influence with the police.

This is true to some extent because the sons of some zamindars also are in the Police. With these words, I support the amendment.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural), (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have no mind to take up much time of the House and shall say only a few words. I am surprised to find that some zamindar members have tried to ridicule the trading classes particularly when they themselves suffer from all the vices they assign to them. I know, Sir, why they desire that powers be given to the police. They are aware that many of their kith and kin are joining this Department and this amendment will afford them greater opportunities for accepting bribes. Such a desire on their part is most reprehensible and I oppose the amendment with all the force that I can command.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava)** (*Hindustani*). Sir, the object that we wanted to achieve by this provision was to supply fire wood at cheap rates to such places which badly needed it. Free trade proved an obstacle in our way and we felt like emulating the examples of provinces like the United Provinces and the Central Provinces where due to scarcity, export of fire wood had been stopped. We, therefore, thought of imposing this control. No hon. Member should misunderstand that this law is being enacted without any desire on our part to put it through. We will most certainly do everything in our power to see that the provisions of this law are successfully and properly carried out. This should not be construed to mean that we have any desire to deprive any class of the trade that it may be carrying on in fire wood. We only wish that its activities should be supervised and to whatever Department this work is entrusted, I shall see that justice is done to it. Left to myself, I do not favour the idea of soliciting the aid of the Police but if the House feels that the Government should have wider powers I shall certainly not refuse to have them. I must here make it clear that through whichever Department this work is done, whether it is the Civil Supplies Department or the Police, inefficiency and dishonesty will in no case be tolerated. However, it is for the hon. Members to decide and I shall act according to their verdict.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall put the amendment in two parts. First, the question is.—

That clause 10 stand part of the Bill

*The Assembly divided Ayes 8, noes 31.*

Ayes.

Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.

Bhagat Ram Choda, Shri,

Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.

Indar Singh, Sardar.

Ishar Singh Mujhail, Sardar.

Lehna Singh Sethi, Dr.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar.

Virendra, Shri.

Noes.

Bachan Singh, Sardar.

Badlu Ram, Chaudhri

Faqir Chand, Pandit

Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar

Gurbachan Singh, Sardar

Gurbanta Singh, Master

Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri

Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar

Jiwan Lal, Pandit

Jogindar Singh Mann, Sadar

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri

Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri

Lahri Singh, Chaudhri

Man Singh Jathedar, Sardar

Matu Ram, Chaudhri

Mohan Lal, Pandit

Pancham Chand, Thakur

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati, Dr

Piara Singh, Sardar

Prabodh Chandar, Shri

Prem Singh, Chaudhri

Sahib Ram, Chaudhri

Sajjan Singh, Sardar

Samar Singh, Chaudhri

Sardul Singh, Sardar

Shanno Devi Saigal, Shrimati

Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit

Sita Devi, Shrimati

Sundar Lal, Chaudhri

Sundar Singh, Chaudhri

Suraj Mal, Chaudhri

**Mr. Speaker :** Now, the question is—

That the following be inserted as clause 10:

10. An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable.

*The motion was carried.*

Clauses 11 to 14.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 11 to 14 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clause 1.

Sub-clause (1.)

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Title

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) :** Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies Bill as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried.*



## URBAN RENT RESTRICTION BILL

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):

Sir, I beg to introduce the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill.

**Minister for Finance** (*Hindustani*): I move—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill be taken into consideration at once.

At present the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act 1947 governs the restrictions on the increase of rent. Since it was to remain in force for two years it now ceases to have effect. It is therefore being re-enacted with certain necessary modifications. The necessity of re-enacting it as a permanent measure is evident. With these words I commend the Bill to the House for acceptance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved —

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clause 2.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shri Dev Raj Sethi): I move—

That in part (i) line 7 for the word 'framed' the word 'farmed' be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I move —

That at the end of part (j) the following be added: "or any area declared by notification to be urban for the purpose of this Act."

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clauses 3 to 8.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 3 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clause 9

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 9 stand part of the Bill

*The motion was carried.*

Clauses 10 to 21

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 10 to 21 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Schedule

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clause 1

sub-clause (1)

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Title

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill, as amended be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion Moved—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, It is really a matter for gratification that the Bill, now before the House is going to be placed on the Statute Book with a view to benefit to a great extent the poor tenants by protecting them against the *malafide* attempt by their landlords. But I wish to bring this point to the notice of the Government that the provisions of this Bill would not be strictly enforced. I have no hesitation in saying this that the provisions of this Bill which have already been in force are being operated to the advantage of the landlords. In this connection I would like to quote one or two instances for the information of the hon. Premier in particular, who is not at the moment in his seat, so that he may judge for himself that the provisions of a Bill passed into law in this august House are not enforced strictly. In my own district some time ago, Shri Thakur Das Bhargava, brother of our hon. Premier, who happens to be a big landlord and owns many houses, wanted to get one of his houses vacated. He instituted legal proceedings against the tenant to get his house vacated. It will not be out of place to mention here that no house owner could get his house vacated legally if it was occupied by a Government servant. Now this house fetched him a rent of Rs. 45 per month. He wanted to take advantage of the then prevailing disturbed conditions and wanted to charge higher rent by giving it to somebody else. This house was occupied by the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and he had his office in the same premises. Owing to the communal disturbances the Assistant Registrar, who was a Muslim, left that place for Pakistan. Government could not pay the rent of this house to Shri Bhargava for some time. Since he did not receive the rent in time, he got the house vacated. I wrote to the hon. Premier to say that there was no other accommodation available for the office of the Co-operative Societies elsewhere nor were any arrangements made in this direction. But I am constrained to remark that he did not pay any heed to it. The result was that the landlord not only succeeded in getting his house vacated but he also went to the extent of throwing away all the belongings of the

## [Chaudri Suraj Mal]

office of the Co-operative Societies. So far no accomodation has been made available to this office, but on the other hand the landlord who was receiving Rs 45-per month as its rent, after getting its possession gave it on a much higher rent of Rs 125- per month. Keeping this instance in view, I wish to bring this point to the notice of the Government that the provisions of this Bill should be strictly enforced and that no undue favour should be shown to any one whosoever he may be.

There is yet another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government and that is regarding the eviction of tenants by their landlords. A landlord is within his rights to get his house vacated by serving his tenant with a notice and instituting legal proceedings against him in the court in case he requires it for his own use or for making alterations in his building. It has been experienced that landlords get ejectment order on one pretext or the other with a view to harassing and embarrassing tenants. In this connection I am reminded of an instance where under some excuse a landlord got his house vacated by instituting legal proceedings against his tenant. This house was occupied by a school mistress and she was paying Rs 8/- per month as its rent. She was asked by her landlord to pay a higher rent of Rs. 20/- per month instead of Rs. 8/- per month. She was helpless and was willing to increase the rent to the extent of Rs. 10/- or Rs. 12/- per month, but could not submit to the demand of her landlord in its entirety. Thereupon the landlord succeeded in evicting her. The poor lady could not get any accommodation elsewhere. Her husband who had been ailing for some time past, breathed his last for want of suitable shelter. These are the atrocities committed by the rapacious landlords. The poor lady was forced to live on the road-side. It will not be out of place to mention here that some women raised subscriptions to help this poor lady. She has been cursing her landlord for perpetrating such injustice upon her. Under the circumstances, I fully realize the impression that is bound to be created in the minds of others by the action of those well connected with the high officials of the Government. I have no hesitation in saying this and I make bold to submit that in my own district of Hissar where such a precedent already referred to by me has been set up, most of the landlords treat this law as a dead letter. It is simply because of this precedent that most of the tenants are experiencing great hardship at the hands of their landlords.

This is how the provisions of this legislation already in force are acted upon. However, I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and the hon. Ministers in particular that if the Government continues conniving at such irregularities, then no useful purpose will be served by passing this Bill. It is in fact the bounden duty of the Government to see that the provisions of this Bill when passed into law are enforced strictly and are made applicable to the rich and poor alike and no undue favour should be shown to persons connected with the officials of the Government. May I ask the hon. Premier whether the instances that I have quoted above are based on facts or not? If not, will the hon. Premier kindly clarify the position?

Before I resume my seat, I would again appeal to the Government to ensure strict enforcement of the provisions of this Bill.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) :** Sir, it is a matter for regret that when my learned Friend started his speech I was not in my seat, and in my absence he made me and my elder brother the target of his criticism. It is no doubt true that Pandit Thakur Dass Bhargava and I are born of the same parents, but I cannot help saying that his relations with Chaudhri Sahib have developed to such a degree that he should be more than a brother to him. Chaudhri Sahib started his practice with his backing and I would even go to the length of saying that Chaudhri Sahib is indebted to him for his success. Knowing the sort of relations that Chaudhri Sahib has had with my brother and his family, I could never imagine that he would make such a speech and especially when I was not in my seat. It is not necessary for me to remind Chaudhri Sahib that I am not an autocrat. Whenever any complaint is made to us, we forward it to the Head of the Department or the district authority for investigation. Sir, may I also remind Chaudhri Sahib through you that when a friend or a relative of his took unauthorised possession of the house of a Muslim evacuee, he himself wrote to me a recommendatory letter, which I forwarded as usual to the Deputy Commissioner concerned? When Chaudhri Sahib himself does not hesitate to send letters of recommendation, it does not become of him to accuse us of showing favours and charging us with failure to take action against wrong doers?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Is the hon. Premier relevant?

**Mr. Speaker::** I wish the hon. Member had not been personal himself when he was making his speech.

**Premier** I have not talked of anything personal. Chaudhri Sahib's letter to which I have referred was written to me, not as Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava but as the Premier of East Punjab. Obviously Chaudhri Sahib is pricked because I did not take action against my brother on the basis of another letter which he wrote to me. I may once again remind Chaudhri Sahib that I sent that complaint to the Deputy Commissioner concerned just as I sent his previous letter in which he wanted me to help his relative in retaining unauthorised possession of the house of a Muslim. Sir, I feel that it is absolutely unbecoming on the part of persons who misuse their position by taking undue advantage of the influence they wield in their district, to blame us and charge us with favouritism. Chaudhri Sahib has alleged that I took no action on the complaint that he made against my brother. I may again tell him that I referred the complaint to the Deputy Commissioner concerned, even though I knew that my brother had got the house vacated by instituting legal proceedings and obtaining a decree from a competent law court. If my brother increased the rent of the house when he let it to some one else, as alleged by Chaudhri Sahib, I don't see any reason why he should have brought this complaint before the House except that he wanted to show that the Government was guilty of favouritism. It was highly improper on his part to do so. The Rent Restriction Act has been in force all this time and there is a provision in it declaring 'pugree' or charging of excessive rent as illegal. If a landlord does anything illegal or contravenes this Act, action can be taken against him, only when a regular complaint is lodged by the aggrieved party. It is a pity that people who give 'Pugree' do not have the courage to lodge a complaint against their landlord. The proper way to get redress of such grievances is to follow the procedure prescribed by law. This House is not a place for lodging such complaints. I challenge anybody to prove if I have ever given protection to any relation or a friend of mine who acted wrongly. (*Cheers*). Sir, what I feel is this. If any of my friends indulge in wrong acts, they in fact insult me. How can I then think of shielding them? I am occupying this office with a view to serving the people and it is my most earnest desire to serve them impartially without showing favour to anyone. (*Cheers*). On the other hand people complain against me because I refuse to yield to their wishes when they put pressure on me to do certain unfair things. If these people go on complaining against me, I can't help it. So far as



the allegation made by Chaudhri Suraj Mal is concerned, there is not a grain of truth in it. Government has been enforcing every law to the best of its ability. To say that this measure has in the past not been vigorously enforced, is absolutely wrong. If those who think in these terms can prove that in a particular case, a landlord took 'pugree' they shall see that he will be brought to book. But it is a pity that those who make this complaint are themselves unwilling to give evidence against or report against the landlord who does any wrong and contravenes the law, for fear of displeasing him. They find it rather easy to vilify the Government. I may assure them that the Government is determined on the strict enforcement of this measure.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** May I ask the hon. Premier one question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Did I not write a letter to him complaining against his brother?

**Premier:** Yes and I sent it to the Deputy Commissioner concerned for investigation.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Is it not a fact that instead of sending that letter to the district authorities, he sent it or handed it over to his brother and asked him to settle the matter himself?

**Premier :** This is absolutely wrong.

**Mr. Speaker :** question is—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill, as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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## CONTROL OF BRICKS SUPPLIES BILL

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the East Punjab Control of Bricks Supplies Bill.

**Premeir** (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Control of Bricks Supplies Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, before the partition, our supplies of coal were quite adequate to meet the needs of the province. A fairly large portion of our coal requirements used to come from Baluchistan and Quetta. Now we receive all our supplies from Bengal. Owing to the diminishing of supplies and also partly due to transport difficulties, there has been of late a shortage of coal in this province, as a result of which owners of brick kilns have been experiencing considerable difficulty in carrying on their work. The Government of India have now allotted to us four thousand wagon load of slaked coal and we propose to meet the requirements of brick kilns out of this quota. Now whereas we want to supply coal for brick kilns we also want to regulate the prices and distribution of bricks manufactured by them, so that proprietors of brick kilns may not be in a position to exploit the people by charging exorbitant prices for bricks. It is with this object that this Bill has been brought before the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved.—

That the East Punjab Control of Bricks Supplies Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

## Clause 1

## Sub-clause (2).

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried,*

## Clauses 2 to 9.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## Clause 10.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*):  
I move —

That for clause 10, the following be substituted: "An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable".

Sir, I do not want to say much in connection with this amendment since the principle involved has already been discussed and accepted under a different Bill of similar nature. I hope the hon. Premier would be willing to accept this amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved —

That for clause 10, the following be substituted :

" An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable ".

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I oppose this amendment. My reasons for this are obvious because this matter has already been fully discussed. I don't think the supporters of this amendment have any more arguments to give in its favour. I can assure my Friends that the provisions of the proposed amendment will operate to the disadvantage of the owners of brick-kilns and would result in hampering their work. It would render them easy victims of harassment at the hands of the police. Entrusting the police with more powers would serve no useful purpose.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I also oppose this amendment. Those who are in favour of entrusting more powers to the police have perhaps forgotten that in the United Punjab, it used to be the dread of the people and was so unpopular that the people used to bring out its mock funeral processions. I can think of only one explanation for this attitude on their part. Perhaps they think that if the police is entrusted with more powers they will have more opportunities and excuses of maligning it, and this will supply them with more material for inflaming the feelings of the people against the Government. I am definitely of the view that if more powers are vested in the police, the public will be annoyed.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly, representing South-East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, Sardar Bachan Singh has remarked that there is not much need of discussion on this amendment since the principle involved has already been accepted. It is no doubt true that the decision in question was the result of a division which was decisive, though a number of members were absent. I have, however, risen to explain my point of view to the House because I do not see eye to eye with Sardar Bachan Singh. He perhaps thinks that the system of controls proved a failure because the officials responsible for enforcing it took bribes from defaulters and connived at their offences. Sir, his object in moving this amendment is that the delegation of powers to the police will result in effective control over the supply, distribution and consumption of bricks, and that it will put a stop to the mal-practices of the Civil Supplies Department. But I will impress upon the House that it will be unfair to allow police interference as it is likely that such powers may be misused by them in certain cases. It is wrong to say that the controls were not successful because of the fact that the police were not vested with powers to deal effectively with the law-breakers. But there were other factors responsible for this which I would like to put before the House on some other occasion, as at present the time at my disposal is very short. I have not opposed the measure as I fully agree with the principle of imposing control in order to regulate the price and distribution of the available supply of bricks to the public. But these additional powers to the police may be used to harass the innocent and poor people and may also make the trade of bricks impossible.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am not a friend of black marketers as I have on different occasions raised my voice of protest against them in my speeches delivered from the public platform. I have not the least sympathy with these people as they adopt unfair means and fleece the public by taking undue advantage of their helplessness. But I do not find any reasons to support the amendment moved by my honourable Friend. In order to understand its significance, it would be advisable to advert to Section 3 of the Bill. In that section the powers are provided to control, supply, distribution or consumption of bricks. These powers are required to regulate the price and distribution of the

available supply of bricks to the public in order to prevent the commodity from getting into the black market and being sold at excessive prices. If these powers are delegated to the police, as suggested by my honourable Friend, it is likely that these may be misused and the arrests might be made mala fide and for collateral purposes, namely, to satisfy the private spite of certain police officials. At times they may be actuated by some sort of malice against some people and may make or get false reports made against them. The result would be that the police may arrest any kiln-owner and make the trade impossible. It is not, however, my intention that no action need be taken against a person who contravenes any of the orders under section 3 of the Bill and that he may not be produced before the court but what I want to drive at is that no citizen is deprived of his civil liberties. When we have always been criticising the vesting of powers in the police under the Public Safety Bill, it is least desirable to delegate these additional powers to the police to molest the innocent and poor people. I think that my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has either not read the Bill or not understood its provisions.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Sir, I would say that my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar has not understood the provisions of the Bill.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We say that neither of you have understood the provisions. (*Laughter*).

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to clause 10 which reads as follows :—

No Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Bill except on a report in writing of the fact constituting such offence made by a person duly authorised by the Provincial Government in this behalf.

It shows that the officer concerned would make a report against the person contravening any of the orders made under this Bill and the court will award him the penalty as provided under the law. This does not mean that guilty persons under the existing provision will not suffer punishment. If the offence is made cognizable, a police officer may at any time arrest the owner of a brick-kiln. I do not wish such wide powers to be given to the police as it will cause unnecessary harassment to innocent persons. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh** (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, in my opinion, if I have not understood the significance of the proposed amendment, my hon. Friend sitting by my side has also not been able to understand it. He said that if the offence is made cognizable, the police will arrest anybody they like. I beg to submit that it is not so. Proper investigation will be made and if sufficient proof exists that a certain person has committed a crime, he will certainly be arrested. If a brick-kiln owner starts sending his bricks at night to another place with the object of making illegal profit, who will go and stop his activities at that time? It is only if you give suitable powers to the police that on the receipt of such information, a police officer will proceed to the spot immediately and arrest the offender. In the absence of such powers, all the bricks will have been illegally exported before any action could be taken. Then, Sir, wells have to be constructed in the villages. When there was no control, bricks were available, but after its imposition nobody would sell them at the fixed price. Where will the bricks, required for village wells, come from? If the offence is cognizable, in the case of refusal on the part of a kiln-owner to sell his bricks, you have only to report to the police and everything will be set right. If the police is really so bad that everybody is afraid of it, why do you not abolish it altogether? If a police officer comes to know that thieves have entered a certain place or that some other crime is being committed, he will not say that he has to take rest at that time. What has been said against the police in connection with the amendment to make offences under this Bill cognizable, is only an excuse for perpetuating and strengthening the hands of the black marketers. I therefore see no reason why the proposed amendment should not be accepted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by Sardar Bachan Singh. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar understood the matter well and presented it in an able manner. I, however, beg to point out that the real state of affairs is different from that which has been presented.

The object of this Bill is to prevent black-marketing in bricks. The prices of all essential commodities have to be controlled and steps have



to be taken to ensure that dealers in such commodities do not indulge in black-market. Bricks are also an essential article and have been going in the black market. These can only be purchased by the rich people. The question before us is whether we wish to put an end to this state of affairs or not. The Government proposes to make certain rules in this connection. According to these rules when a person duly authorised by the Government makes a report that a breach of the law is being committed, the court will proceed to take action in the matter. It has been said that if the offences are made cognizable the police would be able to arrest anybody they like and nobody would be safe. I beg to point out that it is wrong to say so. Already there are a large number of provisions under the Penal Code, under which the police has the power to arrest people. It is wrong to say that if powers of arrest under this Bill are given to the police, these will be misused. In my opinion, it is necessary that a person who deals in bricks should know that if he indulges in black-marketing, an ordinary police constable can arrest him. An honest person has nothing to fear. It is a dishonest person whom a police-man will be able to arrest. I wish that a person who does not sell bricks in the open market, should have the fear of being arrested not only by a police-man but even by a chowkidar. I desire that the control should be effective. I am in favour of the enjoyment of full civil liberties, and if at any time I find that these are being curtailed, I shall be the first person to raise my voice in protest. At the same time, I do not wish to provide any opportunity to those persons who indulge in black market.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*). Sir, I want to say one or two things before this House. I would request my hon. Friends not to be led away only by sentiment. They should be realistic enough to see the way in which the Police usually works and avoid any interference by this department as far as may be possible. So far as ending of the black market is concerned there are no two opinions in this House but the question is what effective measures should be adopted to accomplish this task. In my opinion if we think on sentimental lines and adopt a course which is suggested by the amendment the remedy might prove worse than the disease. I earnestly request the hon. Mover of this amendment kindly to think a little more dispassionately as there appears to be no necessity for such a stern provision.

**Sardar Bachan Singh:** My hon. Friend probably knows that there was a time when a man was deprived of the hand with which he had committed a theft.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** I would congratulate my learned Friend if he could resurrect those times. But I reiterate that no useful purpose would be served by importing sentiment in our speeches. I can on the basis of my personal experience say that the police often turn a non-cognizable offence into a cognizable offence. They always misuse the powers that are entrusted to them and would never help us in removing our troubles. To my mind the only effective way of eradicating black market is that our public men, say the hon. Members of this august House, should start a regular propaganda against the evil doers. Measures of the pattern before us will not prove very useful and it is better that we abstain from them. I hope my hon. Friends will reconsider the amendment in the light of what I have said.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):** Sir, it has been amply demonstrated that common interests bring people of howsoever divergent views together and the conflicting interests may send even friends into opposite camps. However, Sir, we want a rigorous provision as no half hearted measure is likely to produce any useful results. I can without any fear of contradiction say that the material for burning bricks, that is coal etc, is only available in the towns and not in the rural areas. The reason why it is so, is quite plain. The urban people are comparatively very rich and in a position to buy coal in the black-market. We ruralities cannot do that and have to suffer as a consequence. I wish that effective steps are taken to supply coal to the rural areas as well. I know that the whole quota of coal meant for district Hissar is consumed in the kilns of the town and not a trace of it finds its way to the villages. The poor people have to go without buildings for their schools and other purposes. It is something very sound and I urge the House to make the Bill before us as rigorous as we possibly can. The black-marketers and the rich should in no case be allowed to take an undue advantage of the property of the rural people. I strongly support the amendment.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):** Sir, I greatly appreciate the spirit with which my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has moved this amendment, but I am afraid

It is not likely to achieve the object he has in view. If at present people can carry on black market through the Civil Supplies Department, in the changed circumstances they will do it through the police. I am prepared to go to the extent of saying that they might utilize the services of both these Departments at one and the same time.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: At any rate this amendment means additional check.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** In my opinion the check will prove of no avail. Corruption and black market appear to have entered the very blood and flesh of our nation. So long as we are not able to change the mentality and the nature of our people and our officers, eradication of black market is next to impossible. So if we have any desire to serve our motherland and our province we should all try to change our present attitude.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal** (Amritsar, General, Rural), (*Hindustani*): Sir, many of my hon. Friends have spoken on this amendment and I also wish to support it. Everybody is sick of the black market and earnestly desires that it should be put an end to as early as possible. In my opinion this amendment of my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh will help us a great deal. Some of the hon. Members have opined that powers should not be given to the police as they have fears that the police would accept bribes and matters may go from bad to worse. But they appear to be labouring under a misunderstanding. Times have changed. We are our own masters now and the police has to carry out our orders. This Department has already become very useful and has earned the admiration of men like Sardar Patel. They have to prove that they are an asset to the country and should be ashamed of such mal-practices as acceptance of bribes etc.

Sir, I know the temperament of the people of my country. They have always had a great and profound respect for the law of the land and the more rigorous measures we make for them, the more useful results they are likely to yield. A friend of mine who hails from Rawalpindi once told me that one day during the riots when a few Hindus and Sikhs were murdered, a crowd of three to four hundred Hindus and Sikhs became desperate and proceeded

[Shri Kedar Nath Saigal]

towards a Muslim Mohalla to take revenge. But to the surprise of everybody they all returned after a short time. When asked as to why they returned without striking the enemy, they replied that they had seen a constable on duty in the Chowk and therefore they did not think it desirable to do anything in his presence. If such be the regard for police in our minds there appears to be no reason why we should not be able to banish the black market from our midst with the help of this Department. Whenever irregularities come to the notice of the Civil Supplies Department, they should be properly and promptly enquired into by the police. This clearly means that the amendment of my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh is bound to be of very great advantage. I would in the circumstances go to the extent of suggesting that police action may be provided in all future Bills which are to be placed before this House. However, in case there be any doubt about the honesty and integrity of some officers, a special C. I. D. may be appointed to watch their activities.

Premier [The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava] (*Hindustani*) : Sir, although I have made the position of the Government quite clear in this matter while speaking on a similar amendment moved in connection with the previous Bill, yet I think I should say a few words more. Up till now there was a general demand that non-official elements should also be taken into confidence while carrying on the business of the Government. So with this purpose in view, the District Civil Supplies Committees were formed to help the Civil Supplies Department in its work. Those committees were required to advise the Department in all relevant matters. I, however, admit that I have also received complaints against the Civil Supplies Committees from some places to the effect that they are not working properly and efficiently. I am, therefore, thinking of bringing about some change in the composition of these committees. This, I think, will be done within the next few days. I also want that the hon. Members of the Assembly should work on these committees in their respective districts. Whenever there will be any control in any districts, these committees will be consulted and effort shall also be made to act upon their advice. If at any time the Department does not accept their advice, it shall be called upon to explain why it did not do so. Whenever such steps have been taken, the controls have been a great success. Public has had complaint

against the officials. It is, therefore, necessary that every effort should be made to minimise to the utmost extent those complaints by supervising the work of the officials, through these committees. I am also aware that there prevailed fears in the minds of the public with regard to the controls. We were ourselves a little hesitant to restart them. As the House is aware, the controls were lifted in 1948. But after only a few months, they had to be reimposed. As there had arisen many doubts and misgivings in the minds of the people with regard to the controls and they thought that controls created difficulties for them, we constituted the District Civil Supplies Committees, so that the grievances of the public might be removed.

It has been our desire that the laws that we enact should not be very stringent. But if the hon. Members of the House themselves want to give more powers to the Government, I cannot reject them. As a matter of fact, I take this amendment as a vote of confidence in the Government. It shows that the House has begun to have confidence in the Police Department which was distrusted so much. I am glad to know that there is at least a Department of the Government which commands the confidence of the House. I shall, however, see to it that the Police does not misuse the powers that are now being given to it. I cannot disagree with the House if it wants to give more powers to the Police and I assure the hon. Members that the powers thus conferred will be properly utilized.

**Mr. Speaker :** I shall put the amendment in two parts. First, the question is—

That clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Now the question is —

That the following be inserted as clause 10 :

“An offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable.”

*The motion was carried.*

#### CLAUSES 11 TO 13.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 11 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## CLAUSE 1.

## Sub-clause (1).

Mr. Speaker : Question is.—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is.—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move—

That the East Punjab Control of Bricks Supplies Bill, as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. Speaker : Under Rule 10 (i) of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules. I have nominated the following four honourable Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen :

1. Pandit Mohan Lal.
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
3. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh.
4. Mehta Ranbir Singh.

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m., on Thursday, 10th March 1949.*

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# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 10th March 1949.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### EXPENDITURE UNDER THE HEAD SIMLA HILL ALLOWANCE.

**\*553. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total expenditure borne by the Government under the head Simla Hill Allowance in the various departments during the period 1st April, 1948, to 30th September 1948?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** The total expenditure on the Simla Hill Allowance incurred during the period from the 1st April, 1948, to the 30th September, 1948, was Rs. 6,20,980/-.

#### SUPPLY OF STEAM COAL AND IRON TO FOUNDRIES IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*557. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of foundries in the Province ;
- (b) the number of foundries in the Haryana Districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal ;
- (c) whether permits for hard coke, steam coal, Pig iron and steel are being granted to these foundries ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the foundries established after 1st June, 1947, have to get the iron quota from the Director of Industries East Punjab ;
- (e) whether steam coal quota is granted by the Provincial or the district authorities ;

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

(f) all the four quotas granted to the foundries in the Haryana districts during the last year ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :

[a] The total number of foundries in East Punjab is 849, out of which 139 are large scale on the Provincial allotment list and the remaining are small scale on the district allotment lists.

[b] The number of foundries in the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal is as under :—

District.	Number of foundries.	
	Large scale foundries.	Small scale foundries.
1. Rohtak ... ..	2	3
2. Gurgaon ... ..	1	...
3. Hissar ... ..	...	...
4. Karnal ... ..	3	6

[c] Permits for hard coke and steam coal are issued to these foundries. As regards Pig iron, permits are issued by the Government of India. Similarly permits for steel are also issued by the Government of India to registered foundries. No application has however so far been received from these foundries for iron and steel quota.

[d] No, they have only to apply to the Director of Industries, East Punjab, to get their applications recommended.

[e] Distt. registration.

[f] No quota of iron and steel has been given to these foundries during the year 1947, as no application was received during

that period. As regards hard coke and steam coal, the following allotments were made during the year 1947.

Serial No.	Name of District.	Hard Coke.		Steam Coal.	
		Foundries in the Provincial allotment list.	Foundries in the District allotment list.	Foundries in the Provincial allotment list.	Foundries in the District allotment list.
1	Rohtak District	2,000 Maunds or 4 wagons.	Nil	50 Maunds.	Nil
2	Gurgaon District	2,500 Maunds or 5 wagons.	500 Maunds or 1 wagon.	Nil	Nil
3	Hissar District ...	No foundry was in existence during the year 1947, so no allotment was made.			
4	Karnal District ...	2,000 Maunds or 4 wagons.	410 Maunds or about 1 wagon.	Nil	Nil

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state what special steps are being taken by the Government to encourage this industry in the four districts of Hariana Prant, namely Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal, in which the number of foundries is very small ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every effort is being made in this connection. The Government gives all kinds of facilities and encouragement to the persons who start foundries in these districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know what sort of encouragement and facilities are given to develop this industry in these industrially backward districts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government considers the application of any person who applies for the issue of permit of iron or coal to him. The permit is issued out of the quota of iron or coal available for a particular district. I think, this is what the Government can do in this matter.

**Minister for Finance :** I would like to inform the Hon. Member in this connection that the quota received by the East Punjab Government from the Government of India is very limited. There would, therefore, be a large number of factories and foundries in the province without any quota. The general output of coal in the country during the last year has gone down. The quota allotted to the East Punjab previously was 35 wagons and now it has been reduced to 13 wagons. In view of this shortage it is very difficult to give all the facilities that the Government would like to. Similarly, in regard to steel, the quota allotted to the East Punjab Government is limited and out of that quota we have to supply steel to various departments of the Government, particularly, the Agriculture Department for the manufacture of agricultural implements--which is very important in view of the present food situation in the country. The result of all this is that a very small quota is left for small fabricators and it becomes very difficult for the Government to give coal and steel to every factory and foundry in the province.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Secretary remarked that the Government is doing everything to encourage this industry. I want to know what special consideration is being shown by the Government to encourage this industry in the districts in which the number of the foundries is very small, with a view to increasing their number in those districts, and also to increasing their output ?

**Minister :** The difficulty is that there are previous quota holders of both steel and coal and they have got a prior right to get that and it would be extremely difficult for the Government to accommodate the newly established factories and foundries. If, there are any registered companies who have got regular workshops, the East Punjab Government has always been and will be prepared to recommend their legitimate demands to the Government of India.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state as to what precisely is the special consideration that is being shown to those districts and areas in which this industry is very

backward and the number of foundries very small, so that this number should increase and this industry should flourish ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In this connection, I would like to point out that the Government is running an Industrial School at Rohtak to train labour for this industry. Besides two Inspectors and one Superintendent are posted at Rohtak to induce people to take to industry. These are the ways through which the Government is encouraging the people to start this industry.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It has been said by the Parliamentary Secretary in his reply to the question that the number of large scale foundries in Rohtak District is 2, in Gurgaon District 3 and the number of small scale foundries in Rohtak District is 3 and in Karnal District, 6. It has also been stated that the number of foundries is 849 out of which 139 are large scale foundries. I want to know as to what steps the Government has taken so far or intends to take in future to encourage this industry in the backward districts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government has posted one Extra Assistant Commissioner for this purpose for the districts of Rohtak and Hissar. It is also prepared to consider any other proposal in this connection.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Is the Government aware that a large number of specialised labourers are sitting idle in the districts of Rohtak, Karnal, and Hissar, who have no outlet to go outside their own districts ? Does the Government intend to take any steps to provide work for them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every effort is being made in this direction by the Government.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know what has been done so far ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government has opened training centres for the training of labour. 250 students are getting training in the training centre of Rohtak. Similarly, in other districts also such training centres are being opened.

**Minister :** This does not arise out of this question. The general industrial development cannot be brought in a question which refers to factories and foundries.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** The Government, when questions are put to them by us, is irrelevant on many occasions. Hence this question..

**Mr. Speaker :** It is for me to see whether a Member is relevant or not.

### REALISATION OF HOUSE TAX AND PROPERTY TAX FROM TENANTS.

**\*558. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he received a representation from the residents of Rewari, district Gurgaon, to the effect that the land-lords were realising the House Tax and the Property Tax imposed on their property from the tenants ; if so, what steps, if any the Government has taken or intends to take to check this practice ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** Yes, and it was filed, as an aggrieved party has a legal remedy under section 4 read with section 9 of the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1947.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the land-lords are realising House Tax and Property Tax from the tenants while these taxes have been levied on their incomes ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This has come to the notice of the Government. That is why a reply has been given to the question of the Hon. Member. Besides, these complaints can be made in a Court of Law from where redress of such grievances can be secured.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government has considered the desirability of issuing instructions on the subject that these poor tenants may not be forced to make these unnecessary payments and that they may be saved the trouble of knocking at the Courts of Law for obtaining redress of their grievances on this account ?

**Minister :** Government is not considering this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When Government feels that the underlying object of the imposition of these taxes is not being realized then it should take steps that these taxes are not passed on to the other people.



**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. This is a suggestion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government prepared to consider the question that those taxes which are imposed upon the land-lords are not realized from the tenants ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This again is a suggestion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Government intend taking any steps other than the recourse to the Court of Law for alleviating the difficulties of the tenants ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the Member makes any suggestion it will be looked into.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** In view of the high cost of living, will these taxes be paid by the tenants or will the land-lords be allowed to increase the rents correspondingly ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This again is a suggestion.

#### BURYING OF CATTLE AND WASTE OF LEATHER.

**\*573. Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Will the Hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

[a] whether the Government is aware of the fact that most of the cattle were buried without the skin or hide being shifted off ;

[b] what steps if any, does the Government propose to take to stop this waste of large quantity of leather every year ?

**The Hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

[a] Yes. Only those animals were buried in tact who died of contagious diseases like Rinderpest and Haemorrhage Septicaemia, etc.

[b] In order to avoid the spreading of contagious diseases in cattle, Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if it has come to the notice of the Government that people in many districts of East Punjab particularly in Hariana Prant have taken to the burying of dead cattle without the skins being shifted off ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :** Yes, the Government is aware of this fact that the dead cattle are being buried, but this is in case of cattle suffering from contagious diseases.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that a large number of dead cattle other than diseased cattle are also buried without their skins having been removed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is absolutely wrong.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Is there any arrangement for examination of dead bodies before they are buried to know whether the disease from which the animal died was a contagious disease or not ?

**Premier :** There is no such arrangement.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** How then is it possible to know whether the animal died from a contagious disease or not ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the Hon. Minister for Public Works and the Hon. Minister for Excise and Labour, made speeches in Hariana wherein they impressed upon the Harijans and Zamindars to stop this bad practice of burying dead cattle without removing the skin ?

**Premier :** Government is contemplating to bring in a legislative measure under which the taking off of the skin will be compulsory.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Hon. Premier whether the answer of the Government that only diseased dead cattle are buried is correct ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Is the Government aware that this practice has resulted in estrangement between Zamindars and Harijans and the consequential immense waste of hides and skins ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is an expression of opinion.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** May I know if the Government have thought of any remedy to put a stop to this practice ?

**Premier :** Government have received many complaints regarding disputes between the Zamindars and Harijans. Every endeavour is made to bring about settlement of the same through the good offices of the Hon. Members as well as through other non-official agencies. Since the Province suffers a huge loss in non-removal of skins from the dead cattle, Government is contemplating to enact a law by virtue of which arrangements will be made for the removal of skins by the owners themselves or by the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why Government is anxious on this account when it has been stated in its reply to the question that no such evil exists.

**Minister for Public Works :** Reports have been received several times that the Hon. Member is anxious to undertake this work. (*Laughter.*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if Hon. Ministers have refused to undertake this work before making it over to me as alleged by them ?

#### FIXATION OF PERCENTAGE FOR REFUGEES ETC. IN THE SERVICE OF LOCAL BODIES

**\*574 Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether any resolution passed by the District Board, Rohtak in its meeting held on 23rd August, 1948, regarding the fixation of percentage for refugees, Ex-service men and others in the services under Local Bodies has been received by the Government ; if so, what action if any does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** No such resolution from District Board, Rohtak, has been received by Government. However, on certain other representations, Government has decided that after 1949, the vacancies in the Local Body services will be filled in the following proportion :—

[a] Displaced local body employees and refugees	...	50%
[b] Ex-servicemen	... ..	25%
[c] Others	... ..	25%

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether under the Notification which the Government has issued, regarding the fixation of percentage for refugees, ex-servicemen and others in the services of local bodies promotions of local persons by right of seniority will not be affected ?

**Minister :** This question does not arise. This is a new policy which the Government has laid.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is for me to decide whether a supplementary question arises out of an answer or not.

**Minister :** What he has asked in the form of a supplementary question relates to the old policy.

**Mr. Speaker :** Then the Hon. Minister should have kept silent and asked for notice. It is not proper for him to usurp the functions of the Chair.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that if a local person gets a job by promotion, it does not make any difference in the percentages fixed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Although it is a suggestion for particular action, yet if the Government has to say anything I will have no objection.

**Minister :** Yes, it is a fact that the Government has provided for such a thing as desired by the Hon. Member.

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#### AEROPLANES FOR THE USE OF MINISTERS.

**\*637. Shri Virendra :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government have purchased two aeroplanes for the use of Ministers when they go out on tour ?;
- (b) the price paid for the purchase of these planes;

- (c) the persons who are entitled to travel by these planes ;
- (d) whether any Ministers have used these machines for touring purposes, if so, who are those Ministers, and how many times each one of them have used these machines ;
- (e) the staff that has been employed to look after and work these machines ;
- (f) the expenditure which has been incurred over this staff ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Rs. 90,000/- only.
- (c) (i) His Excellency the Governor (ii) Hon. Premier and Ministers of the East Punjab. (iii) Commissioners and Secretaries to Government. (iv) Heads of Departments when accompanying His Excellency the Governor or any Hon. Minister in the plane or in an emergency under orders of Government. (v) Any other officer specially permitted by the Chief Secretary under exceptional circumstances.
- (d) Yes
 

Premier	eleven times
Hon. S. Swaran Singh	twelve times
Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh	twice.
- (e) & [f] No separate staff has been employed. The aircrafts are maintained and serviced by the Northern India Flying Club Jullundur on payment of a fixed sum of Rs. 2000/- per month with effect from the 9th November, 1948.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that all the the Hon. Ministers do not use aeroplanes ?

**Premier :** I have just now replied this question.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that the travelling allowance is less when a journey is performed by an aeroplane than in the case of a journey performed by motor car ?

**Premier :** If an Hon. Minister travels by his own car he gets road mileage but if he travels by a Government motor car he does not get any road mileage. In the same way if he travels by a Government owned

(Premier)

plane he does not get any travelling allowance, but if he travels by a chartered plane or on a seat reserved in an ordinary plane he is entitled to travelling allowance.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Is the maintenance of two aeroplanes justified by the use made of them or service rendered by them ?

**Premier :** I think it is justified.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Are the pilots for these planes the same every time or do they change from time to time?

**Premier :** Pilots are supplied by the Northern India Flying Club.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Is due care taken in the selection of pilots in view of the fact that carrying a Minister is a great responsibility?

**Premier :** Certainly. It is in Ministers' own interest. They do not travel unless they are satisfied.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Do the Ministers know the fundamentals of aviation?

**Premier :** I think they know more than the Hon. Member does.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the conditions under which the Government was forced to purchase the two aeroplanes?

**Premier :** Because time is saved and also because maximum amount of work can be done in the minimum period of time.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How much time has so far been saved by using these aeroplanes?

**Premier :** Much time is saved by performing this journey. For instance it takes 8 hours to reach Delhi from this place in a car, while it takes only 5 hours from this place to reach the same place by under-taking journey by air from Ambala.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how much time is thus saved?

**Premier :** Three hours.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Hon. Premier aware of the fact that the air journey is very risky?

**Premier :** I think everybody has due regard for his life. The Hon. Ministers before getting into these planes ensure themselves that



there is no risk and that everything is O. K. because they are as much anxious about their personal safety as the hon. member asking this question.

PRINTING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS.

\*639 Shri Virendra: Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:

- [a] whether it is a fact that the Government have given the work of printing of Electoral Rolls to certain printing Presses in Delhi:
- [b] the names of these Presses:
- [c] the terms of the contract entered into with these Presses;
- [d] the approximate amount which the Government will have to spend to get the Electoral Rolls published?

The Hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :—

- [a] Yes.
- [b] (i) Mufid-i-Am Press.  
(ii) Gulab Chand & Sons.  
(iii) Narendra Electric Press.  
(iv) Lahore Press,  
(v) Kapur Printing Press,  
(vi) Nazar Printing Press, and  
(vii) Dharamraja Press.
- (c) The rates include the cost of caligraphy, printing folding, stitching, etc., of the electoral rolls. The cartage of paper from railway station to their premises is to be borne by the presses. The office and residential accommodation for the election staff numbering over 225 is to be provided by the presses. The work is to be completed within the scheduled time to be intimated by the Elections Commissioner.
- (d) About Rupees twelve lakhs.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether any tenders were called by the Government ?

**Premier :** There is a separate question on this subject and I shall reply it at the proper time.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the present rates for printing are Rs. 2/- per page, while the printing presses have been given this work at the rate of Rs. 5/4/- per page ?

**Premier :** There is a separate question on this subject too and I shall reply it at the proper time.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Are these electoral rolls to be printed both in Hindi and Gurmukhi. If not why not ?

**Premier :** The rolls now under print are only preliminary, when they are finally printed they will be printed in both the languages.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** In what language is caligraphy being done ?

**Premier :** Caligraphy is always done in Urdu ; otherwise it is typed.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Would these be printed again after this order has been executed ?

**Premier :** I have already said that these are preliminary and when these are printed finally they will be printed in both the languages.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the scarcity of presses in East Punjab made them give this work to certain printing presses in Delhi ?

**Premier :** Government was in favour of getting this sort of work done at one place only. There were not enough printing presses in our province for printing this whole work.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that out of these printing presses, two printing presses do not have any litho machines ?

**Premier :** I want notice for this question.

CONDITION OF MUSLIMS STILL RESIDING IN  
THE EAST PUNJAB.

**\*561 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- [a] the approximate number of Muslims still residing in the East Punjab, district wise ;
- [b] the special facilities that are being provided to the Congress or Nationalist Muslims who refused to go to Pakistan ;
- [c] the conditions under which the Meos in the Gurgaon district are living.

**The Hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- [a] It is regretted that the information asked for by the Hon. Member is not available and the time and trouble involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.
- [b] No muslim is being compelled to go to Pakistan if he does not wish to do so. Those who are staying on as nationals of India enjoy full security and rights of citizenship.
- [c] The Meos in Gurgaon District are living under normal conditions. They enjoy full measures of security.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With regard to part [b] above, may I know whether any facilities have been afforded by the Government to the industrialist muslims ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** [Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma] : I refer the Hon. Member to part [b] of my answer. I have nothing to add.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that most of the Muslims who refused to go to Pakistan are almost refugees and that they represented to the Government that their applications for affording them rehabilitation facilities should be considered ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government has no knowledge about such applications. No application has so far been received by the

[*Parliamentary Secretary*]

Government. If the Hon. Member has any applicant in view, Government will consider his case.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that most of the Congress or nationalist Muslims who while residing in their own districts have become almost refugees, represented to His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Premier ? Is it also a fact that the Government have assured them that their cases for affording them suitable facilities would be considered sympathetically ?

**Premier :** So far as the applications which were addressed to me are considered, I have taken suitable action on them. I have also instructed the concerned officers to afford maximum help to them. So far as the applications which have been addressed to His Excellency the Governor are concerned, I cannot say anything about them. Those who have submitted their applications to him, must naturally hope to receive a reply from him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that Government has through notifications and newspapers made it clear that all rehabilitation facilities in the form of grants and loans would be afforded to those Muslims who are residing in East Punjab and who have refused to go to Pakistan ?

**Premier :** Yes. Notifications to this effect have been made and at the same time such facilities have also been afforded to them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What are those facilities which have been afforded to them according to these notifications ? Have such facilities been afforded to them individually or collectively ?

**Premier :** If the Hon. Member can supply me with a list and also give me their names, I shall reply to his question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In view of the fact that such Muslims represented to the Government for considering their cases and that Government also declared it through press and also through one of their notifications that such facilities would be afforded to them, may I know if Government has afforded any such facilities to any such individual ? Have such facilities been afforded on collective basis too ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I think this question is being repeated and the answer has just now been given. If the hon. Member wants more information he can give notice of a fresh question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary was quite irrelevant.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. The hon. Member should not cast aspersions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I also know whether it is a fact that there is no place available for the Meos of Gurgaon who are at present living quite a normal life in various parts of Gurgaon district and who are also at present the residents of the Indian Union ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that out of these Meos, who are stated to be living in normal conditions, those who were in Government service or service of the local bodies, have not so far been re-instated ?

**Premier :** Instructions have been sent to the District Boards to employ such persons. Those who were in Government service have been and are being re-employed. The Hon. Member will realize that we were not sure up to this time whether they would be able to live peacefully in other districts, and so our efforts to re-employ them had to be confined to their home districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have all those Meos who were working as patwaris or school teachers in their home districts been re-instated in their original districts ?

**Premier :** I cannot make a general statement as Panditji wants me to do. I do not say all have been re-employed or that all have not been re-employed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the Hon. Premier give an idea as to what percentage of such Meos have been re-employed ?

**Premier :** If the Hon. Member gives notice, I would supply him the necessary information.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HON. MINISTERS  
AND HALTING ALLOWANCE ADMISSIBLE TO  
MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARIES.**

**\*604. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the rate of halting allowance per diem allowed to the Hon. Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and the Private Parliamentary Secretaries respectively while they are on tour ;
- (b) the total amount drawn as Travelling Allowance by each of the Hon. Ministers from (i) 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 and [ii] 1st October 1948 to 28th February 1949 ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**

[a] The rates of halting allowance per diem admissble to the :—

	In plains.	In hill tracts ordinary,	In hill tracts special.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
[i] Hon. Ministers ...	15	15	15
[ii] Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries	10	12	14

[b] The statement below gives the required information : —

	15-8-1947 to 31-3-1948.	1-10-1948 to 31-1-1949.
	Rs. as. ps.	Rs. as. ps.
Hon. Premier ...	8,798 10 0	2,715 8 0
Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue ...	9,315 4 0	4,140 4 0
Hon. Minister for Public Works ...	10,422 4 6	*2,673 2 0
Hon. Minister for Civil Supplies ...	8,082 0 0	...
Hon. Minister for Development	8,344 8 0	3,417 12 0
Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation ...	10,806 12 0	3,661 14 0
Hon. Minister for Labour and Excise ...	7,616 8 0	3,501 4 0
Hon. Minister for Finance ...	...	*4,246 3 0

**\*[Figures for January and February, 1949 are not available].**



**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Can the Hon. Premier tell us, Sir, how it is that the rates of halting allowance for the Ministers, whether they tour in plains or hilly tracts are the same while different rates exist for the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

**Premier :** This is in accordance with the rules.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know whether these rates are in accordance with the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee ?

**Premier :** My sister should know it better since she is a member of that Committee.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In the meeting of the Committee at which this point was decided it was also decided to submit the report to the Cabinet. I want to know whether it has been received by the Cabinet or not ?

**Premier :** The report in question has not yet been received.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know if the old rules under which Re. -/4/- were charged for every mile covered by a car sent to take the Minister and Re. -/10/- per mile if he was himself travelling in it, are still in force ?

**Premier :** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why different rates of halting allowance have been fixed for Parliamentary Secretaries for touring in plains and hilly tracts ?

**Premier :** It is rather expensive to tour hilly tracts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How is it that this does not apply to Ministers ? The Ministers get the same halting allowance whether they tour in plains or hilly tracts. How is it that two different sets of rules are being followed regarding grant of halting allowance ?

**Premier :** Because it is considered desirable to do so ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if it has ever occurred to the Government to make its own arrangements for everything transport, meals, lodging, for its touring officers ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** May I know how many Parliamentary Secretaries are being treated as first class officers and how many as second class officers ?

**Premier :** This is done according to the rules.

#### FILLING UP OF THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT PUBLICITY OFFICERS.

**\*642. Shri Virendra :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

[a] whether it is a fact that the Government had invited applications for the posts of Assistant Publicity Officers, or the Tehsil Publicity Officers ;

[b] the number of persons who have applied for these posts ;

[c] whether all these posts have been filled up, if so, the persons who have been selected for these posts, if not, the reasons therefor.

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**

[a] Yes.

[b] 1310.

[c] No. It has not been considered necessary to fill up these posts for the present.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the reasons which first prompted the Government to sanction the posts of Assistant Publicity Officers and invite applications from candidates but which later made it change its decision ?

**Premier :** Whenever the Government has any intention of doing a thing, proposals are submitted to it, but if later on it is felt that the thing in question should not be done, those proposals are allowed to be held in abeyance. At first, it was considered necessary to appoint Assistant Publicity Officers and applications were invited, but later on it was thought proper to postpone the matter of making appointments.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was this decision taken because District Publicity Officers had proved a failure and it was not considered desirable to add failure upon failure ?

**Premier :** Panditji is welcome to hold any view he likes, but the Government does not function like this.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** For what period has this matter been postponed ?

**Premier :** No time limit has been fixed. Appointments will be made, whenever it is considered necessary to do so.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the Hon. Ministers were feeling the necessity of making these appointments, but the Chief Secretary held a different view and advised them not to make the appointments and so the matter was dropped ?

**Premier :** When Panditji himself becomes a Minister, he will find that only those things materialize which the Ministers want.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the House cannot have an apprehension that in a certain matter, the Government has acted in a particular manner for a particular reason ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### ANTI CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

**\*643. Shri Virendra :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- [a] the total number of cases disposed of by the Anti Corruption Committee since its inception ;
- [b] the number of officers against whom the Government has taken action for corruption and their names ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :—**

- [a] About 1,500 in all against 650 Government servants including officers of the Central Government. These includes several anonymous complaints which were filed.
- [b] It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of Officers/Officials against whom action has been taken for corruption. Briefly the position is as follows :—
  - [i] The services of 13 Government servants have been terminated.

[Premier]

- [ii] Inquiries are being held against three P. C. S. Officers under the Public Servants [Inquiries] Act 1850.
- [iii] Departmental inquiries are being held in the cases of ten other Government servants.
- [iv] Cases against Eleven Government servants are being tried in Courts of Law.
- [v] Four Government servants have been reverted to lower rank and two patwaris have been punished.
- [vi] Eight officers are under suspension and their cases are still under the consideration of Government.
- [vii] Four officers have been warned for not complying with departmental rules.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that some Members of Legislative Assembly and Ex-Members of Legislative Assembly submitted complaints of corruption against certain highly placed officers of the Government first in October, 1947 and then in April 1948 and the matter came up before the Anti Corruption Committee; if so, has the Anti Corruption Committee set up any agency to inquire into these complaints?

**Premier :** I have already replied to this question that it is not in the public interest to disclose such information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that no action is taken by the Government on the cases of corruption submitted to the Government by various departments?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, what I want to know is whether not taking any action against corrupt officer, will not have a demoralising effect upon the services?

**Premier :** I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the Government realise this better than the Hon. Member.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Government consider it proper to publish the names of such officers against whom such action is taken with the nature of offence committed in each case?

**Premier :** It will be done in future if it is consistent with the rules.

**Shri Virendra :** Did the Government receive any complaint against any I. C. S. or I. P. Officer ?

**Premier :** Complaints have been received from time to time.

**Shri Virendra :** Has any enquiry been made ?

**Premier :** Cases are at investigating stage.

**Shri Virendra :** How many I. C. S. Officers were involved ?

**Premier :** I think, there was one such officer.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** In view of the wide-spread allegations of corruption against the Ministers on what lines do the Government contemplate making enquires. Will that be on the lines of Lynsky Tribunal?.

**Mr Speaker :** This doesnot arise.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** It does, Sir, out of part (iv) of the question ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Ministers are different from other Government officers.

#### SUPPLYING NEWS TO PRESS AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNOR BY INFORMATION BUREAU.

\*644 **Shri Virendra :** Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- [a] whether it is a fact that the officers of the information Bureau accompany His Excellency the Governor while he is on tour ;
- [b] whether it is also a fact that these officers send special telegrams to various newspapers at Government expense regarding the activities of His Excellency the Governor ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- [a] An official of the Public Relations Department is generally deputed to accompany His Excellency the Governor on tour ;
- [b] Yes, when necessary.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know if the honourable Ministers take with them photographers while on tour ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Saigal :** Is it not a fact that the tour of His Excellency the Governor caused great inconvenience to the public at Amritsar and Jullundur ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### SCARCITY OF KEROSENE RURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.

**\*684 Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether he is aware of the fact that Kerosine Oil is being sold in rural areas of the Province at excessive and black market price ;

(b) What steps if any has the Government taken or propose to take to relieve the people of the hardship caused to them in the matter of procurement of Kerosine Oil ?

**The Honourable Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) Yes.

(b) Kerosene Oil rationing is being introduced in the Province with effect from the 1st April, 1949. Necessary preparatory measures are already under way in this respect.

#### PERMITS FOR PUBLIC GOODS CARRIERS TO PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

**\*692. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) how many parliamentary secretaries and members of the East Punjab Assembly have got permits for routes of public goods carriers ;

(b) what other benefits in the shape of license of controlled goods and permits or Depots of such goods are being derived by various members of the Assembly or parliamentary secretaries ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(b) Retail depots for the sale of cloth, foodgrains and other controlled goods are generally allotted to those who were and are in a particular trade and have a shop.



Obviously M. L. As and parliamentary secretaries are excluded. As regards other benefits and permits which the Hon. Member has in view, there are no allotment earmarked for M. L. As or Parliamentary Secretaries and they are considered, if they apply, in exactly the same way as any other members of the community.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that any directive has been issued by the All India Congress Committee to this Government that effort should be made that no Parliamentary Secretary or M. L. A. receives undue favours from the Government and in pursuance thereof the Hon. Premier issued instructions in this behalf to all the M.L. As?

**Premier :** I issued this letter in the capacity of the leader of the party and not as Premier.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there any marked difference between the Leader of the House and the Premier?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Hon. Premier aware of the fact that there is an agitation amongst the public that these Parliamentary Secretaries derive undue advantage of their position ; if so, do the Government contemplate the setting up an enquiry committee for this purpose ?

**Premier :** So far as any Minister is concerned, I know that they have never taken any advantage of their position but so far as Parliamentary Secretaries and M. L. As are concerned, enquiry is made into the complaints against them, I do not consider it necessary to setting up an enquiry committee for this purpose.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I know if some wrong thing can be shown as right by speaking loudly ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Was not the Hon. Minister under the fear of Parliamentary Secretaries while making this enquiry ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### WHOLESALE AGENTS OF CONTROLLED CLOTH IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

\*693- **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether the persons who have been nominated or selected as the sole wholesale cloth dealers for distribution of controlled cloth in

(Pt. Mohan Lal Datta)

Hoshiarpur District ever dealt in cloth business before their selection ;

(b) Whether these gentlemen were members of the Syndicate of wholesale dealers in Hoshiarpur district at the time of cloth control previously ;

(c) at whose suggestion were these gentlemen nominated as sole agents for distributing cloth ;

(d) whether a representation was made to the Government by the wholesale dealers of cloth against such nomination, if so, what steps has the Government taken in this behalf.

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

(a) Immediately on reimposition of cloth control, interim nominees to lift cloth quotas had to be appointed. These nominees were not in the cloth trade. They were succeeded by the District wholesale cloth Syndicate of the wholesale cloth licensees of the district.

(b) There was no syndicate of wholesale dealers of Hoshiarpur under the previous control. Cloth quota was lifted by group leaders who are all members of the present syndicate.

(c) The interim nominees were required to be appointed by District Magistrates. The syndicate was formed of all wholesale licensees existing at the time.

(d) Yes. The interim nominees gave way to the syndicate according to the Government Scheme.

#### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS IN THE PROVINCE.

\*563. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the progress made by the National Volunteer Corps, district-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that District Commanders are also working as members of the National Volunteer Corps Boards in their respective districts ;

(c) whether the Congress organisations in various districts are being asked to help and co-operate in the work of National Volunteer Corps ; if so, how and in what manner ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) National Volunteer Corps is a non-party organisation ; and all

non-official organisations including Congress have been asked to help and co-operate in its work. But it is not possible to have their association in day to day administrative matters.

*Statement*

District.	Sanctioned quota.	Enlistment upto date.
Amritsar.	1200	1200
Ferozepore.	1200	1150
Jullundur.	1200	1200
Ludhiana.	1200	1200
Gurdaspur.	1000	1000
Kangra.	1000	1000
Hoshiarpur.	1000	700
Hissar	1000	986
Ambala.	1000	890
Karnal.	1000	1000
Rohtak	1000	1000
Gurgaon.	1000	944
Simla.	200	190
		<hr/> 12400 <hr/>

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know what help these organisations gave to the Government in this matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma):** Only in the matter of recruitment.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government had issued any instructions that public organisations and parties should be associated in some particular way in making recruitment ?

**Premier:** The Government obtained their help in the way they considered proper.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What help did the different organisations and especially the Congress give in this matter ?

**Premier** District Committees had been set up to carry on work connected with National Volunteer Corps. In this task several non-official organisations gave help.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I wish to know if the Congress organisation helped in this task.

**Premier :** Yes, they helped in this work.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was it obligatory on the part of the Congress Committees to recognise the District Committees set up for recruitment of National Volunteer Corps and to help them in this task ?

**Premier :** They gave the help which was expected from them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government satisfied with their

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

work ?

**Premier :** Yes, a sufficient number of persons have been recruited.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that there is practically no difference between the present National Volunteer Corps and the former Civic Guards ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is an expression of opinion.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the Hon. premier be pleased to state the number of Harijans who were recruited in the National Volunteer Corps ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I will make enquiry.

#### REVIVAL OF RASHTRYA SEWAK SANGH ACTIVITIES

\*565. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Rashtrya Sewak Sangh activities have been and are being revived under different names and labels ; if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh**

**Part 1. Yes.**

**Part. II.** Government are watching the situation and have taken action whenever it is found that R. S. S. activities are being revived under different names and labels.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that before declaring the Rashtrya Sewak Sangh unlawful, the Government gave them sufficient time to strengthen their activities ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an expression of opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has not the Government treated the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh leniently ?

**Premier :** The Government dealt with them as the occasion and the circumstances required.

#### POSSESSION OF LAND IN VILLAGE RAIKOT, DISTRICT LUDHIANA

\*587. **Sardar Kehr Singh.** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that forty bighas of land in village Raikot belonging to an absconder, was attached by the Government and it

used to be given on lease every year by means of auction ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a collateral of this absconder has taken forcible possession of this land since last year ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the land was auctioned for lease in May 1948 to one Sawan Singh of village Hans Tehsil Jagraon who was the highest bidder ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the above cited collateral of the absconder has not handed over the possession of this land to Sawan Singh inspite of the latter's application to the Deputy Commissioner of the District :

(e) whether the Deputy Commissioner ordered the Tehsildar of Jagraon tehsil to arrange that possession of the land be handed over to Sawan Singh and the Tehsildar in turn ordered the officer-in-charge Police station Raikot that possession be handed over to Sawan Singh ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the police authorities of Thana Raikot actually helped the collateral of the absconder and stood in the way of Sawan Singh in getting possession of the land to which he was entitled ;

(g) If the answers to parts (a to f) above be in the affirmative, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh**

(a) Yes, but 15 Bighas 16 Biswas and 6 Biswansis and not forty Bighas.

(b) Yes by one Bachan Das son of Mangal Das, but it is not known whether Bachan Das is a collateral of the absconder.

(c) Yes.

(d)& (e) The possession of land was delivered to Sawan Singh on 24th October, 1948 through the help of police but subsequently Bachan Das again occupied it by force.

(f) No.

(g) Sawan Singh is reported to have filed a criminal complaint under Section 447/504 I. P. C. against Bachan Das which is pending in court.

**Sardar Kehr Singh :** Can the Government say as to why it so happened and why were those who were responsible for it not punished? Will the Government help the lessee, who has not been able to get the

[Sardar Kehr Singh]

possession ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Let the Hon. Minister answer the first part first.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** He will be dealt with in accordance with law.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What help did the Government give to the aggrieved person in obtaining possession of the land ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government did what it could.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What did the Government do ?

**Premier :** There are certain matters which can be decided by the Courts only. The Government can not interfere in those matters. It can take decisions in executive matters only.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the indifference and carelessness of the Government was responsible for this man not getting the possession ? Did not the Government favour some party in this case ?

**Premier :** The Government has not favoured or disfavoured anybody.

#### BAILDARS

\* 601. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the labourers employed as baildars are allowed any holidays ; if so, whether any particular day of a week or any date during a month have been fixed for this purpose ; if not the reason for the same ;

(b) what are the maximum hours per day for which the *baildars* have to work ;

(c) what amount each of the baildars is paid per diem as wages ;

(d) whether they are recruited on permanent or temporary basis ;

(e) whether their posts are pensionable ;

(f) whether any provident fund is opened for the benefits of the employees ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(g) whether they are supplied with liveries at regular intervals ;

(h) whether they are provided with free accommodation ;

(i) if the answers to parts (e) (f) (g) and (h) are in the negative, what action if any does the Government propose to take in the matter ;

(j) whether any casual leave is granted to these labourers, if so, the



maximum limit fixed ;

(k) whether some of the baildars have to work at night as watchmen over the canal minors or distributaries ; if so, whether they are paid any extra amount for this overtime ;

(l) whether any time limit for their daily work has been fixed ; if so whether any record for their attendance is being maintained showing the time of their coming to work and leaving their duty ; if not, the reasons for the same?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh**

(a) Yes, on every alternate Sunday.

(b) 7 to 8 hours daily.

(c) Rs. 15/- p. m. as pay plus 25/- dearness allowance.

(d) No, they are work-charged.

(e) No.

(f) No, as workcharged establishment is not entitled to pension or benefits of Contributory Provident Fund.

(g) No, except Regulation Baildars.

(h) No, except in case of Regulation Baildars stationed at Head-works or other important regulation stations. Other baildars are given rent free quarters if available. Generally they come from nearby villages and return to their home in the evening.

(i) No action is called for.

(j) Yes, 15 days in a year.

(k) Yes, but they are specifically baildars recruited specifically for this purpose. Hence the question of payment for overtime does not arise.

(l) Working hours are fixed by the local officers according to season. Attendance registers are generally maintained.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** While under Factories Act every factory-owner has to give at least one weekly holiday to the labourers why does the Government not allow these employees a holiday on every Sunday ?

**Parliamentary Secretary ( Sardar Narotam Singh ) :** This will be considered.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### PAYMENT OF CLAIMS OF PATWARIES ON WEST PUNJAB GOVT.

**175. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the honourable Minister for

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Home and Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether all the arrears of dues to the revenue patwaries of Amritsar district for which they could claim on West Punjab have been paid to them by the East Punjab Government before 31st March 1948;
- (b) whether there is any revenue patwari of Sarhali Qanungo, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, who has not been paid his arrears of pay along with the other patwaries before 15th February, 1949, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the date on which he submitted his bill of arrears with affidavit to his senior officer i.e., Circle Qanungo, Sarhali
- (d) the date on which this bill was received in the Tehsil office;
- (e) the date on which this bill was sent to the Sadar office Amritsar;
- (f) the date on which it was received in the Sadar office.
- (g) the date on which it was sanctioned for payment;
- (h) the date on which this bill was sent back to the Tehsil office, Tarn Taran, for payment;
- (i) the causes for delay in payment and what action, if any has been taken in this matter?

The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh : (a) No.  
(b) No.  
(c) to (i) Do not arise.

#### CENSUS ALLOWANCE TO PATWARIES

176. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation please state.

- (a) whether any allowance was granted to the revenue Patwaries of Tehsil Tarn Taran Sub Tehsil of Patti, District Amritsar, for their taking census of the refugees in 1948;
- (b) The total amount sanctioned on this account;
- (c) The date on which the bill for the above referred to allowance was submitted by the office Qanungo Tarn Tarn, to the Sadar

Office Amritsar, for approval and payment ;

- (d) The date on which this bill was received in the Sadar Office Amritsar ;
- (e) The date on which the said bill was finally sanctioned and the money drawn from the treasury ;
- (f) The date on which the sanction of the bill along with the payment authority was intimated to the Tehsil office Taran Taran ;
- (g) whether the payment of this bill was made to the Patwaris upto 14th February 1949 ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (h) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take against those responsible for this delay ?

**The Hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) No.
- (b) to (h) Do not arise.

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DELAY IN THE PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF SALARY TO A QANUNGO  
OF AMRITSAR

**177. Sardar Sajjan Singh** Will the honourable Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of the Qanungoes who were posted in Amritsar district after their migration from the West Punjab in 1947 ;
- (b) whether any one of them was paid less salary and the other allowances than the amount which was drawn by him in West Punjab, if so, the name of that Qanungo ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that some months after his posting in Amritsar district he was authorised to receive the same pay and other allowances which he was getting in Pakistan ;
- (d) whether he was allowed to get his arrears of salary and other allowances with effect from the date of his posting ; if so, the date on which he submitted his bill of arrears to the office of the Tehsildar ;

- (e) the date on which his bill was sent to the Sadar office, Amritsar by the Tehsil office ;
- (f) the date on which the Sadar office received the bill in question and forwarded the same to the higher authorities at the Provincial Government Headquarters, Simla ;
- (g) the date on which it was received by the Provincial authorities for final approval ;
- (h) the date on which it was sanctioned and returned for payment to the Sadar district office, Amritsar ;
- (i) whether the amount due on account of arrears was paid to the Qanungo concerned up till 14th February, 1949, if not, the reasons thereof ;
- (j) the cause for the delay in payment and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) A list is laid on the table.
- (b) Yes, Sardar Aonkh Singh.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes, 19/6/1948.
- (e) 19/6/1948.
- (f) Received in Sadar office on 28/6/1948. It was forwarded to the Accountant General, East Punjab, for preaudit on 6/11/1948.
- (g) 20/1/1948.
- (h) Sanctioned on 25/1/1949 by the Accountant General, East Punjab, it was received back in the Treasury Office, Amritsar, on 31/1/1949.
- (i)&(j) No. It was passed for payment on 8/2/1949 and could not be sent to the Sub-Treasury Officer, Tarn Taran till 14/2/1949. The payment has since been made to the official concerned. The delay was due to the claim having become

time barred, which had to be verified by the Accountant General, East Punjab.

*Statement showing the number and names of the Kanungoes who were posted in Amritsar District after their migration from West Punjab in 1947.*

Sr. No.	Name of Kanungo.	Sr. No.	Name of Kanungo.
1.	Shri Girdhari Lal Kanungo	8.	S. Surain Singh. „
2.	S. Kartar Singh „	9.	Sh. Hans Raj „
3.	Sh. Wali Ram „	10.	Sn. Priryag Nath „
4.	Sh. Barkat Ram „	12.	Sh. Harbans Lal „
5.	S Bahal Singh „	12.	S. Lakha Singh „
6.	S. Anckh Singh „		
7.	S. Sher Singh „		

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE OVER NALLAH NEAR VILLAGE KOTLI  
BASAWA SINGH, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

178. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the honourable Minister for Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any representation from Sardar Gurdip Singh, Headman, and many other villagers of village Kotli Basawa Singh, sub-Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, stating that they and their cattle are put to great trouble in crossing a Nallah in that village for cultivation and grazing, was received by him.
- (b) whether the above referred to representation also asked for the construction of a bridge over this Nallah and demanded rupees five hundred as a help from the Government and promised free labour in the construction of a bridge ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above in the affirmative what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in this matter ?

**The Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

The representation in question has not been received.

question does not therefore arise.

## PRIVILEGE MOTION

## LEAKAGE OF BUDGET.

3 p m. **Mr. Speaker :** Mehta Ranbir Singh raised a point of order the other day alleging that a certain newspaper had published figures with respect to the Budget of 1949-50 before its presentation to the House and had asked that the matter should be gone into by a Committee of this House or by the Government and that those who are responsible for the leakage, as alleged, should be punished.

According to the parliamentary procedure, the publication of the reports of select committees before they are presented to the House is a breach of privilege. Obviously, the leakage of the budget secrets before the presentation of the Budget is not the right thing and is undesirable. In the absence of any privileges and the remedy for their breach being defined by this House, I think, with regard to the disclosure of the Budget figures alleged by Mehta Ranbir Singh, it be left to the Government to hold the enquiry as to whether the publication of the figures of the Budget before its presentation was authorised and if so, by whom, under what circumstances and whether any use of such a disclosure was made for the purpose of private gains. I do not propose that the matter be gone into by a Committee of the House.

**Premier :** It was a matter of the gravest concern to me to find that some such news had been published in the Press and as soon as I came to know of that, I instituted an enquiry into the matter. As soon as a report is ready, suitable action will be taken against the person or persons responsible for this leakage.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know if the report of the enquiry which the hon. Premier has instituted will be made available to the members of the House to enable the members to know what action the Government takes in regard to this important matter?

—:O:—

## HOURS OF SITTING AND QUESTION HOUR

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Hindustani) :**  
I move—

- (1) That the Assembly shall meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, 11th March 1949 and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 1.30 p. m.
- (2) That the Question hour be dispensed with on Friday, 11th March 1949



Sir, according to the programme that has been circulated among the hon. Members, meetings of the Assembly were to be held on the 12th as also on the 16th of this month. But some of my hon. Friends have expressed a desire, and I agree with them as I also want to take some rest, that meetings may not be held on these days. Now as there will be no session on the 12th and some of the hon. Members may have to go out of Simla, I move that the Assembly may meet at 10 a. m. and not at 2 p. m. as provided under the Rules.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion Moved --

(1) That the Assembly shall meet at 10 a. m. on Friday 11th March 1949 and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 1-30 P. m.

(2) That the Question hour be dispensed with on Friday, 11th March 1949.

*The Motion was Carried*

**Premier :** Sir, today is a non--official day and in accordance with rules we have to discuss resolutions and a non--official Bill which has already been introduced. I suggest that we discuss the resolutions up to six o' clock and the time thereafter be devoted to the non--official Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** The suggestion of the hon. Premier can be adopted if the House agrees to it unanimously. May I know if the House unanimously agrees to this proposal?

*The suggestion was unanimously agreed to.*

## RESOLUTIONS

### OCCUPANCY RIGHTS TO TENANTS-AT-WILL.

**Sardar Waryam Singh** (Batala, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*):

I move—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to confer occupancy rights on the tenants-at-will of agricultural lands who have been in continuous possession for a period of thirty years or more on or before the 15th August, 1947. and to restore the possession to the tenants-at-will who have been evicted from such lands after that date on an application made to the collectors of their respective districts.

**Sardar Waryam Singh**

Sir, the resolution that I have moved relates to the tenants-at-will. The tenants are people who cultivate the lands of a zamindar and pay him either lease money or give him a fixed share of the produce. The share or the lease money that is charged by the zamindar is usually so excessive that it almost covers all that the tenant produces. The landlords are a very clever set of people and exploit the helpless tenant in every way they can. When the time comes for fixing lease money they do not do it by open auction. They have the recourse to foul methods of bogus tenders and fictitious bids. What is more, these Shylocks realize their pound of flesh whether the tenant is in a position to pay it or not. They get their money in two instalments one of which has to be paid immediately and the other after six months, whether he reaps a good crop or a bad one.

The other system of tenancy is based on the shares which the landlord and the tenant get from the produce. Usually land is given to the tenant for just half or a little more of the produce as his share. This is not all. The land-lord charges him an exorbitant price for the fodder that he grows for his cattle because he is not entitled to do so in his part of land by the terms of his tenancy. So much so that even the honesty of purpose of the poor tenant is doubted by the zamindar. He visits the farm at the time of the harvest and counts the number of the stacks of wheat lest the tenant should steal some of them. The poor farmer is not allowed even to thrash the wheat unless the zamindar permits him to do so. Even after the wheat is thrashed, the zamindar continues to suspect the honesty of purpose of the tenant. He therefore puts some sort of mark on the heap of thrashed wheat. As long as the zamindar likes, the farmer has to look after that heap of grains. If by some mischance, the marks put on the heap of grains, are spoiled by the running over it of some animal, it draws hell for the poor tenant. The zamindar thinks that the grains have been stolen by the tenant. After all these flings of doubts and suspicions on the honesty of purpose of the tenant, he suffers much more at the time of actual distribution of the grains. A sort of commission which is known as *Dharat* is deducted from the share of the tenant at the rate of three or more seers of grains per maund. Whatever is left of the share of the poor tenant after making such deductions, is further reduced on account of his old debts due to the zamindar, who gets back  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times of the grains which he advanced to the tenant in the previous winter. The

result is that the poor tenant has to work for the zamindar gratis. Whatever he earns is taken away by the land-lord. His tribulations do not end there. He has to do forced labour (begar), for the zamindar. This begar is extracted in different forms. Firstly, the tenant has to grind all the wheat required by the zamindar into flour all the year round, at the village grinding wheel with the help of his own bullocks. Apart from that, the tenant has to carry all the agricultural produce of the zamindar to the market on his own bullock—cart and he is given no reward for that. Again, the zamindar keeps for himself some of the land which happens to be either near the village or near the well. This land is cultivated by the tenants for the zamindar as the latter possesses no bullocks of his own. He forces the tenants to do so and the produce of that land is taken in entirety by him. The poor tenant has to do all these things in order to please his land lord, so that he may not eject him from the land at the end of the year. But in spite of all these efforts, the worst invariably happens for the tenant, i. e., a notice of ejectment, is served on him and he has to vacate the land. These fears of ejectment, or transfer to some inferior land, continue to haunt the poor tenant. The land-lord, being very clever, thinks that if the tenant is allowed to continue on the same tract of land for more than a year, he might create some difficulty at the time of his ejectment and so he puts all sorts of pressure, and brings the fear of attachment order to bear on the poor tenant to eject him. As a result of this state of affairs, the production of the province is adversely affected. The farmer cannot work whole-heartedly unless he is sure that he would not be made to leave the land he has to cultivate. For instance, we know that the Government made temporary allotment of land to the refugees who have come from Pakistan. It is due to the allotment being temporary that the farmers have not worked earnestly on the land thus allotted to them. As a result of that the Province has to face a large deficit of food-grains. One of the reasons of this food shortage in our Province is that the tenants cannot have any sense of security on the land of the land lords. They have no attachment to that land, and as such they do not cultivate it whole-heartedly. Consequently the food production has fallen very low.

Now the question arises as to how the tenant earns his livelihood, after giving all that he earns to the zamindar. This he does

**Sardar Waryam Singh**

in different ways. He carries on a side business with the help of his bullock-cart. He has his own bullocks and with their help he takes the raw produce of some traders to the nearby market and is paid for that. Similarly he carries on his cart some other commodity from the market to some other place. He has to resort to such methods to make both ends meet. The profession of agriculture is such that the farmer has nothing to do for six months in a year. To pass these six months, the poor farmer has to take to the service of some contractor or some mill owner. He gets employed as a labourer in some mill. What can he get from the mill-owner of our Province who wants to earn cent per cent profit for himself alone? In spite of the fact that the farmer gets very small wages, he has to work in them ill, out of sheer helplessness, for the winter months.

I would also like to draw the attention of this House to the promises that used to be held to the people before the advent of independence of our country. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the lot of the labourers and peasants would be bettered in a free India. It was the ill-luck of the peasants and labourers that Providence took away this benevolent hand from our heads. As a result of that the farmers are made to suffer all the more. Our Government has not taken any step so far to ameliorate their hard lot. Our country is mainly an agricultural country. It is a pity that it should be deficit in the matter of food. The main reason for this deficit, I think is the system of land-lordism. The landlords get their land cultivated by their tenants who have no attachment to that land. I think the food problem of our country cannot be solved unless the tenants are given the sense of security with regard to the land they cultivate. Our Government has rendered no help to the farmers to increase the production. The poor peasant is as yet going on in centuries old rut of his same old plough and wooden leveller. The Government has made plans for the development of industry and business but no steps are taken to develop agriculture. It is simply to befool the public and benefit the traders that the Government has imposed control on sugarcane. No heed has been paid to the interests of the farmers. Again take the case of the price of wheat.

Its price in the cities was sixteen rupees a maund while the villagers who produce it used to get it at the rate of 25 rupees a maund. This is a grave injustice to the rural population. I hope that the Government will fix the price of wheat in accordance with the expenditure that is involved in its production.

In the end I would like to submit that where the Government devotes more attention to the enacting of laws like Public Safety Act, it would be better if they paid heed to the removal of causes leading to discontentment among the public. It is a pity that the Government make no effort in this direction. We daily read in the papers that our revered leaders make eloquent speeches drawing our attention to the conditions obtaining in the Asiatic countries, particularly the chaos prevailing in China and Burma. Do the honourable Members realize the cause of this wide spread unrest? It is because no efforts have been made by the Governments of these countries to alleviate the distress of their people, I am of the view that if our Government honestly adopts measures to improve the hard lot of the kisan the present discontentment will disappear in no time and ninety percent of the people of the Province will be better off and we will be saved the upheavals which have engulfed other Asiatic countries. I have no mind to take much time of the House but I cannot help saying that Government's efforts in this direction have been very disappointing. They have appointed a Land Reforms Committee only under the stress of public opinion conveyed through a large number of resolutions on the subject. This is commendable if they are sincere in taking this step. I think it extremely necessary to pass a resolution like the one under discussion because it aims at improving the hard lot of the poor kisan. With these words I hope that this resolution will get through the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Resolution moved—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to confer occupancy rights on the tenants-at-will of agricultural lands who have been in continuous possession for a period of thirty years or more on or before the 15th August, 1947, and to restore the possession to the tenants-at-will who have been evicted from such lands after that date on an application made to the Collectors of their respective districts.



I have received notices of certain amendments to the resolution which has been moved. I think the Hon. Members want to move them.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** On a point of order, Sir. We have not received any intimation about the amendments which are to be moved now.

**Mr. Speaker:** The amendments were circulated yesterday and were sent to hon. Members' residences.

**Sardar Ajit Singh**(Parliamentary Secretary): Sir. I beg to move "That in-

- (i) line 2, for the word "occupancy" the word "proprietary" be substituted.
- (ii) line 3, (a) the word "agricultural" be deleted and (b) after the word "lands" the words "buildings and industrial concerns in rural and urban areas" be inserted.
- (iii) Line 6, between the figures "1947" and the word "and" the following be inserted.

"After determining suitable compensation to be paid to the land or building owner by tenants-at-will in some suitable manner to be notified by the Government".

**Mr. Speaker:** These amendments go beyond the scope of the resolution. The resolution wants to give occupancy rights to the tenants-at-will who were occupying that land for the last 30 years. By these amendments you want that proprietary rights should be conferred on them and you also want that land and buildings in the urban areas be included. All these demands are beyond the scope of the original resolution and I therefore rule these amendments out of order.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram** (Hissar North, General, Rural, (*Hindustani*): I move—

"That in line 4, for the words "thirty years" the words "five years" be substituted".

I whole heartedly associate myself with the resolution moved by my honourable Friend Sardar Waryam Singh, but I differ from him on the period of possession by the tenants-at-will. I want that occupancy rights be conferred on tenants-at-will who have been in continuous possession of agricultural land for a



period of five years instead of thirty years. If the period is retained at thirty years then little benefit will accrue to the tenants. It will not be out of place to mention here that in the Congress manifestoes promises were held out to the tenants that under the Congress regime occupancy rights will be conferred on them for lands which they have been tilling for a long time. But it is a thousand pities that the landlords have dispossessed the old tenants under fear lest the Government should make such a law conferring on the tenants rights of occupancy. I have therefore moved this amendment so that the tenants may be benefited to some extent. As I have already stated the resolution will not prove more beneficial because a large number of the tenants have already been evicted from their lands. If the period of possession is put at five years even then a very small proportion of the tenants will be benefited. The amendment is all the more necessary particularly when we see that our country is suffering from acute shortage of foodgrain. If this amendment is accepted it will create confidence in tenants because they will no longer be haunted by the spectre of eviction and they will show more enthusiasm in increasing production of foodgrains. In this connection I may point out that only last year the Hon. Premier made an announcement in a meeting at Bhawani that Government would take steps to get an ordinance promulgated for stopping large scale dispossession of tenants. But the pity of it is that so far no action has been taken in this matter. The result has been that the landlords have evicted the tenants with vengeance in thousand and a large number of notices have been served on them. Now only a small percentage i. e. hardly 5 to 7% of tenants-at-will are in possession of land and it is only the small fraction of them to whom the benefit will accrue as a result of this amendment with these words I hope that the House will accept my amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Resolution under consideration, amendment moved—

That in line 4, for the words "thirty years" the words "five years" be substituted.

Both the original resolution and the amendment shall be discussed together.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann** (Jullundur Division Land Holders): Mr.

**Speaker,** Sir, I would like to make a few observations on this resolution. I very much desired to speak at length on this resolution but

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann]

I am afraid I am feeling so much embarrassed on account of being nominated as a member on the Land Reforms Committee that I do not think that it will be fair for me to express myself fully. On this occasion, however, I will make a few passing remarks. Sir, I am being nominated on that committee as a representative of the land holders but I may say that I have got also at the same time great sympathy for my tenant brothers. I want the land-holders to be fair to the tenants, not only fair but generous, but on the other side I also expect that the tenants should not over ride the land holders and usurp their legal rights. Sir, it would have been better if the resolution had been deferred till the report of the Land Reforms Committee was placed on the table of the House and was in the hands of the hon. members of the House. But hon. members seem to be willing or keen to express their views now so I think perhaps it will greatly help the committee in taking stock of their views in formulating its decisions. Sir, the tenancy problem in this province and the other provinces of India is different. There is a great difference between the land lords of this province and other provinces. Some interested persons seem to be agitating very much and therefore creating a bad atmosphere and consequently the relations between the tenants and the land lords are not such as they ought to be.

Sir, when I hear the word land-lords used in connection with the people of this province I am really at pains to understand what they mean by land-lord. There is no land-lord so far as this province is concerned and I can say definitely that amongst the refugees rank and file no one can claim to be a land-lord in this province. I may say that I was a land-lord in the West Punjab and if I may say so I was a fairly big land-lord but fortune has changed my fate and I consider myself no longer a land-lord over here. But I do not feel sorry for what has happened nor do I frown. I have taken the whole thing with a smiling face. Now whatever land I will get here in this province I will not get it cultivated by tenants because that land will not be in such a high proportion. I will cultivate my land with my own hands and I will take pride in using the plough personally.

Now, Sir, this resolution is quite silent as far as the refugees from the West Punjab are concerned because the land-lords from that side as I see from this resolution will further suffer. They have already suffered tremendously and will again suffer if this resolution is passed and accepted

by the Government. The tenants who were cultivators in the We Punjab will not be benifited by this resolution; only those tenants who were residing in this part of the province will be benifited by it. It does not in any way help the refugees who have a better claim on every one's sympathies.

Sir, I do not want to go into the merits of this resolution for the reasons stated above but if the hon. Members of this House are determined to confer occupancy rights on the tenants-at-will, let them do so and I would still go a step further and that is I would advise my land-lord friends to surrender their proprietary rights, on being compensated by the tenants-at-will or by the Government itself. I am deadly opposed to any middle course being adopted at this time. The tenants-at-will should not be given only occupany rights but proprietary rights. If we are going to part with each other let us part with love and good grace and not with an ill-feeling and ill-desire. I do not want to offer any comments on this resolution because my commenting at this juncture would not be advisable. Although I can say a lot in defence of the land lords but I am sorry I cannot deal with the resolution in details as the mover has done, because I have to give expression to my views on the committee on which I have the honour to serve. With these words I resume my seat.

**Thakur Dalip Singh** (Kangra South, General, Rural) *Hindustani*: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution and the amendment moved now before the House. I would like to congratulate my hon. Friend Sardar Waryam Singh for bringing into this House such a resolution which goes to prove that most of the hon. Members of this House are the real well-wishers of the tenants. I take the opportunity of bringing this point home to them that they should not get disappointed in the least as time will not be far off when their demands would receive due consideration and would in due course of time be conceded. I cannot say definitely whether this resolution will be passed or not, though I have a doubt that it will not be passed and if it is passed at all it will not be put into effect.

**Minister For Public Works** : My hon. Friend should have self confidence.

**Thakur Dalip Singh:** Sir the hon. Minister advises me to have self confidence. On the basis of past experience, I am quite justified in holding this view. The resolution that was passed in the last session has not been put into effect upto this time. Sir, whether the resolution is passed or not, I am sure the day is not far off when such reforms will have to be introduced. If this reform is not effected, I am afraid things will go on becoming worse and worse and the apprehension given vent to by Sardar Waryam Singh might prove only too true.

The resolution does not envisage any radical reform. The landlords do not stand to lose much by it. The conferment of occupancy rights on tenants-at-will is a very modest demand. Now that the amendment which proposed to confer proprietary rights on them has been ruled out of order, let us not grudge them even occupancy rights. Let the proprietary rights rest in the landlords. My able Friend, Sardar Sahib has described in detail the atrocities perpetrated by the landlords on these tenants. So I have no desire to dwell on them. But I must remind my friends of the days when from the Congress platform it was trumpeted abroad that when Congress came into power all the tenants would be given proprietary rights. Reforms such as these had full backing of the Congress, before the advent of 'Swaraj'. But alas, Sir, a period of a year and a half has elapsed since we achieved independence but nothing has so far been done towards the betterment of the lot of tenants in this province. Sir, I have to point out with great regret that ejectments of tenants-at-will is the order of the day. If the Government can't confer proprietary rights or even occupancy rights on them, it should at least take immediate steps to stop the rising tide of ejectments that is uprooting them. Formerly, though their lot was no less hard and they were subjected to humiliation and insults by the landlords, they were not at least driven from land, so long as they were willing to cultivate it. Now that the era of 'Swaraj' has set in, ejectments have started on a very large scale since the landlords are apprehensive lest the Government should confer proprietary rights on them.

Sir, already the Government is finding it hard to rehabilitate refugees from West Punjab. Here, a new class of refugees is being created whereas the Government is sanctioning loans and grants for the farmers and allotting them lands and houses, with a view to helping them to

resettle, it is totally ignoring this new class of refugees, I mean the tenants who are being ejected.

**Mr. Speaker :-** I would ask the hon. Member to wind up.

[**Thakur Dalip Singh**] Sir, I reiterate that landlords won't lose much by the proposed reform. On the other hand I think that the landlord class as whole would be a gainer. In the circumstances prevailing in the Province, yield from agricultural land which is already low is bound to fall down. If the tenants are, however, allowed a little sense of security, they would work whole-heartedly and try to bring more and more land under cultivation of the produce of which landlord will, of course, have his share and will thus be a gainer. This reform will also prove helpful to the Government in solving the problem of food shortage in the province, since if the tenants are sure that they would not be ejected from land, they would put their heart and soul into the work of cultivation and produce more food grain. I once again urge, Sir, that this resolution be passed and put into effect as early as possible. I appeal to all the hon. Members of this House not to let this beneficent reform be put in cold storage like the resolution passed in the last session which proposed the conferment of proprietary rights in the Kamins.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and Pandit Mohan Lal occupied it.*

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** (Ambala Division Landholders)  
**Mr. Speaker,** under different circumstances I would have liked to say much on the resolution which is now before the House, but as I am a member of the Land Reforms Committee, it does not seem to me to be proper to go into the details on the subject. I would, however, like to express my feelings on the amendment which has been moved by Chaudhri Sahib Ram. In the first place, it is very unfortunate that he should have thought of bringing forward such an amendment in his own name particularly when he is a member of the Land Reforms Committee. It would have been proper for him not to have said anything on the subject till some definite decisions had been taken by the Committee in regard to this matter. But in his anxiety....

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram:** The hon. Member himself is a Member of that Committee. He too should not express his opinion on this resolution.



**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** [*Hindustani*]: I shall speak in [a language which my hon. Friend can understand. The fact that Chaudhri Sahib Ram and his friends have evinced undue anxiety about this reform, makes me feel that they are not very serious about it and that they are just using it as a vote grabbing device and to make a show of their sympathy towards tenants.

**Mr. Chairman** (Pandit Mohan Lal) : No aspersions please. •

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram** I would like to tell the hon. Member that I am one of those who actually stand to lose if this resolution is passed and steps are taken by the Government to implement it.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish**: As I have already said, it does not look proper on my part to express my opinion on the main resolution. I have, however, conveyed my sentiments on the amendment moved by Chaudhri Sahib Ram.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I congratulate the mover of this resolution for inviting the attention of the Government to the vital needs of the tenants-at-will of agricultural lands. At present we find that there is a great upheaval in the whole world and no country can remain immune from its effects. One of the bounden duties of every Government is to see that all classes of people get a square deal from the Government and that the poor and weak is not oppressed by the rich and powerful. In fact every Government should make greater effort to promote the welfare of the common man so that he may be prosperous and make the country strong. In a world of to-day distinction between big and small or landlords and the common man is out of date and obsolete. I have been very much impressed to hear Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann—a big landlord of the United Punjab saying that if they were to separate from each other the proper way is to hold mutual consultations and arrive at a peaceful solution. The whole thing must be done in a spirit of brotherly feeling peacefully and gracefully. I have often thought that the Japanese who were in power and authority had made great sacrifices to make their nation strong. In the light of that it is a matter for gratification to say that the landlords of this province have also suddenly realised to show a spirit of good-will and friendliness towards their tenants-at-will. I must appreciate their spirit in bringing forward the present resolution in order to raise the position and



status of the down-trodden people. But when I see that the condition of a term of 30 years continuous possession of agricultural land is prerequisite for the conferment of occupancy rights on the tenants-at-will, I feel sorry to say that the object of for which the resolution has been moved by my honourable Friend will entirely be defeated. The mover has made it clear in his speech that by moving this resolution he seeks to raise the position and status of the tenants-at-will by conferring upon them the occupancy rights. But it pains me that the term of thirty years as provided in the resolution does not touch upon the desired object to be achieved by this resolution. I find that in order to remedy that defect my honourable Friend Chaudhri Sahib Ram has moved an amendment that instead of 30 years the words 5 years be substituted so that occupancy rights would be conferred on those who had been in possession of agricultural land for five years or more before August 15, 1947, I am glad that by moving this amendment, my hon. friend Chaudhri Sahib Ram has given proof of his broad mindedness. I would like to inform the House that the Government of the United Provinces have already conferred occupancy rights upon the tenants-at-will who had been in occupation of agricultural land for a period of over one year. We should now take pride of the fact that the Congress today is at the helm of affairs in the Centre and the provinces. Some Congress Governments have already taken steps to enact tenancy legislation in some Provinces like the United Provinces, Madras and Bihar for the good of the tenants. The future generations will no doubt remember with gratitude what these Governments have done for the betterment of the tenants class. But I am sorry to say that our Government is still lagging behind in introducing such reforms in our own province. The peasant problem is not so acute in our province as in the province of U. P. and Bihar. But it appears that our Government is trying to deprive the tenants of their due rights and is showing no sympathy with this class of people. In these circumstances I will appeal to the Government to take a lesson to move with the times as no human being should be allowed to live and prosper on the sweat of others' labour. I find that there is dissatisfaction all-round and the relations between the landlords and tenants are not so happy and cordial. It is, therefore, imperative in the interest of our province that we should endeavour to promote feelings of love and brotherhood between different classes of people. I feel rejoiced that our Punjabi brethren who had been uprooted from the West Punjab and have come to this side of the Province have shown

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

remarkable spirit of love and co-operation towards each other. They have removed their past differences in order to work together in complete harmony. This was the only practical way of re-establishing themselves once again in life. If on the contrary each individual had harped on his own tune, there would have been nothing but noise. And now that they have worked with feelings of love and close cooperation they will surely in course of time produce life giving music. So far as the tenant class is concerned I know their number in the East Punjab is not very large but I cannot help blaming the Government that their rights have not been safeguarded. They have not been conferred occupancy rights of the agricultural land possessed by them in this province. They have not been given proprietary rights even after paying some kind of compensation. It will reveal the Government's callous indifference and utter disregard to the betterment of the tenant class. I would, therefore, like to sound a note of warning to the Government that its persistence in the policy of woefully ignoring the interests of the tenant class may bring some trouble in its wake. It is no wonder that they may adopt such means as to wrest their due from those who withhold from them their rights. I know that the Government has taken a small step in this direction by constituting a Land Reform Committee to settle the disputes between the landlords and the tenants. I do not know when this committee will begin functioning and at the same time I understand that process of doing work of such committees is often very slow. I would request the committee that it should no longer wait merely to gain time but should submit its recommendation to the Government as early as possible. I know that there are certain members representing the interests of landlord class who are feeling nervous in their natural anxiety to relinquish their proprietary rights to the tenants. I wholeheartedly sympathise with these people because if I too were in that position I would have also exhibited the same apprehensions being prompted by my own interests. I may explain to them that I have always their good at heart and am not advocating the just cause of the poor class out of any grudge or ill-will against them. The policy of 'wait and see' has aggravated the sickness of this class of people with the Government. I would appeal to the Government that it should not pay scant regard to the interests of these down-trodden people but should alleviate their age-long suffering as early as possible. But if it fails to pursue a bold and progressive policy

to abridge their rights, I shudder to think that the reactionary forces which are convulsing Burma and China may seek to infiltrate into India and shake its very foundation.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)*

4 P.M.

I do not wish to see the Punjab involved in such difficulties. I want to see peace and prosperity in my province. For this reason I desire that every tenant or labourer be restored his just rights of which he has been deprived. Members of this House should have the courage to do the right thing now, though they have been slow till now. I fully realise the difficulties which the Government had to face. The uprooting of millions of people was our greatest difficulty. This created a situation the parallel of which does not exist in the history of the world. In spite of these things I feel that the policy of 'wait and see' will not be useful. In the modern age, every minute counts and one cannot afford to postpone things. To remain inactive or to move slowly would be a serious mistake. Events are moving so fast that by not acting now, we may have to repent afterwards. I have been a public worker for a number of years and have taken part in bringing about change of conditions. With my experience I wish to say that we should act now or it may be too late. We should have the boldness to declare those tenants who have been occupying land for a number of years as occupancy tenants. When we count five years prior to the 15th August, 1947, it comes to seven and half years from now. A person who has been a tenant for the last seven or eight years has the right to be declared an occupancy tenant. It will not harm anybody if they are declared occupancy tenants. As Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann was pleased to remark the conditions here will be the same as they are in the United Provinces or Bihar. The Congress has agreed that if a person is deprived of his land or if his proprietary rights are transferred to the occupancy tenants, he will be awarded compensation. When this principle has been accepted, I can assure the land-lords that they will get compensation but the ownership of land must be transferred to the tenant. If, as is provided in the original resolution, we wish to confer occupancy rights on a tenant who has been a tenant-at-will for thirty years, it will serve no useful purpose. People will laugh at us and will think that

[**Sardar Bachan Singh**]

while we loudly profess our sympathy for the tenants, we wish to do nothing substantial for them. With these words, I support the amendment moved by Chaudhri Sahib and hope that by carrying it, hon. Members will give real proof of their sympathy for the tenants.

**Sardar Ajit Singh, [Parliamentary Secretary] (Punjabi):** Sir, I support the idea with which Sardar Waryam Singh has proposed this tenancy legislation. I am one of those persons who have always felt that those people who have been tenants for many years should be given proprietary rights. I am glad to notice that several hon. Members have supported the proposal recommending occupancy rights for those tenants who have been tenants-at-will for the last thirty years or for five years preceding August 15, 1947, as suggested in the amendment. I, however, beg to submit, Sir, that it has been noticed in the Punjab that wherever land is tilled by occupancy tenants, the result is very unsatisfactory. A great deal of national wealth is being wasted and the production is very low. The owner is not interested because he has received his rent. He does nothing to improve the land. He does not get wells dug in the land because he does not wish to spend a penny on it. The tenants are usually poor and cannot afford to get wells dug. They do not possess the means to avail of tractors or to use modern means of cultivation. The production has become so low that occupancy tenants have come to be regarded as a curse. For this reason, I submit that more occupancy tenants should not be created. We shall be committing a serious mistake if we pass a measure of this nature. We should give relief to these persons, but we should not do harm to the province by increasing the number of occupancy tenants. Those persons, who have been tenants for the last ten or twenty years, should be made proprietors and not occupancy tenants.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann:** With compensation or without it?

**Sardar Ajit Singh:** I shall come to this point.

I was submitting that the tenants have limited resources. They cannot perform their work well and the owner does not help them.

Sir, I am firmly of the opinion that if in place of giving rights of occupancy they are given the rights of proprietorship they would do all they can to cultivate their land properly. They may have to beg, borrow or steal, they would then set up tube wells and use all sorts of fertilizers. And so far as the land-lords are concerned they should be paid a reasonable compensation which may be fixed by Government. It is not necessary that they should depend on land for all time to come. They can earn their livelihood by a hundred and one ways. This step will give not only a fillip to our production of food but ameliorate the condition of the poor tenants for which

our worthy chairman (Pandit Mohan Lal) has boundless sympathy.

I wish to place before the House one more point. It has been said that only the agriculturist landlords are Shylocks and that only the agricultural tenants should be given the occupancy rights. I emphatically say that we should do this and much more. We should also extend this benefit to the commercial world. There may be very few tenants-at-will who have worked on a particular piece of land for a period of thirty years but I am sure there are thousands of men who are working in shops for the last forty years or over. There are thousands of shop-keepers and tenants who are paying rent to the house proprietors for the last thirty or forty years. Hundreds of workers have been working in the same factory for a very long time, I see no reason why all such people should not receive the benefit of such a resolution which is now before us particularly when we are going to set up a secular state. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindustani*).

ਬੇਖਬਰ ਤੂ ਜ਼ੋਹਰ ਦੇ ਆਈਨਾਏ ਅਯਾਮ ਹੈ  
ਤੂ ਜ਼ਮਾਨਾ ਮੇਂ ਖੁਦਾ ਕਾ ਆਖਰੀ ਪੈਗਾਮ ਹੈ।  
ਬੇਖਬਰ ਤੂ ਜ਼ੋਹਰ ਏ ਆਈਨਾ ਏ ਅਯਾਮ ਹੈ !  
ਤੂ ਜ਼ਮਾਨੇ ਮੇਂ ਖੁਦਾ ਕਾ ਆਖਰੀ ਪੈਗਾਮ ਹੈ !

Sir, while speaking on the resolution of Sardar Waryam Singh and the amendment of Chaudhri Sahib Ram, I wish first of all to congratulate them from the bottom of my heart. I wish to assure them through you, Sir, that of all the hon. Members who have just spoken on this subject on the floor of this House I feel to be the happiest. I may not be able to claim that I have worked for all classes of people but so far as Harijans are concerned I make bold to say that I am fighting for them since the year 1947-48. I met Babu Rajindar Parsad last year in the presence of Shri Jai Ram Das Daulat Ram and the Prime Minister Pandit Nehru. I said that for the five lakhs of Harijan tenants who have come here from the West Punjab five lakh acres of land may be given to us on lease if not on proprietary basis. Our leaders replied that they could only give us three lakh acres against our demand of five lakh acres. This land they said would be given on lease basis for the first ten years and thereafter the occupants would become proprietors. But this decision was subject to the fate of zamindari system in the country which meant that nobody would have the right of proprietor-



[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

ship when the zamindari system came to an end. This was the treatment which was accorded to us. We were given a flat refusal and I feel like reciting the following lines:

ਹਜ਼ਾਰੇ ਖਾਹਿਸ਼ੇਂ ਐਸੀ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਖਾਹਿਸ਼ ਪਿ ਦਮ ਨਿਕਲੇ  
ਬਹੁਤ ਨਿਕਲੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਰਮਾਨ ਲੇਕਿਨ ਫਿਰ ਭੀ ਕਮ ਨਿਕਲੇ ।  
ਨਿਕਲਨਾ ਖੁਲਦ ਸੇ ਆਦਮ ਕਾ ਸੁਨਤੇ ਆਏ ਬੇ ਲੇਕਨ  
ਬਹੁਤ ਬੇ ਆਬਰੂ ਹੋਕਰ ਤੇਰੇ ਕੂਚੇ ਸੇ ਹਮ ਨਿਕਲ ।  
ਹਜ਼ਾਰੋਂ ਖਵਾਹਿਸ਼ੋਂ ਏਸੀ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਖਵਾਹਿਸ਼ ਪੇ ਦਮ ਨਿਕਲੇ  
ਬਹੁਤ ਨਿਕਲੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਰਮਾਨ ਲੇਕਿਨ ਫਿਰ ਭੀ ਕਮ ਨਿਕਲੇ  
ਨਿਕਲਨਾ ਖੁਲਦ ਸੇ ਆਦਮ ਕਾ ਸੁਨਤੇ ਆਏ ਥੇ ਲੇਕਿਨ  
ਬਹੁਤ ਬੇਆਬਰੂ ਹੋਕਰ ਤੇਰੇ ਕੂਚੇ ਸੇ ਹਮ ਨਿਕਲੇ

Anyhow Sir, I am very pleased to find that some hon. members of this House are joining us in our fight against landlordism. I particularly support the amendment of Chaudhri Shaib Ram with all the force at my command as I honestly feel that only measures like this are calculated to keep the communists and their activities away. We should do all we can to emulate the golden principles of Mahatma Gandhi who had all the good qualities of the communists and the socialists, if we want to save our country and province from the chaos and disorder which is threatening the whole world.

My hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh has opposed the resolution on the ground that the occupancy rights are not enough for the tenants and that they should be accorded proprietary rights. This thing passes my comprehension. I cannot persuade myself to believe that an hon. Friend who grudges us even occupancy rights would be willing to make us owners of land. However, in case he means what he says as after all everything appears to be possible here in the East Punjab, I am profoundly grateful to him. With these words, Sir, I strongly support the resolution as well as the amendment under consideration.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** [Una, General, kural (*Hindustani*.) Sir, in my opinion the best solution of the problem lies in the removal of the distinction between the landlord and the tenant and transferring all land to the tillers. But such an end may be difficult to achieve as the ministry appears to be very heavily weighted on the side of the jagirdars and the land-lords. We shall however be grateful to the Government if they accept the request that we are making to them through this mild resolution. In view of the economic and social betterment of the people, it is necessary that land should cease to be a source of income. Land, I think, is a means to provide livelihood to those who cultivate it. To them, it is a gift of God and as such no-body should have any right over it. This high principle has been followed in all the progressive countries of the world. It has led not only to improve agriculture, but also to increase production. Even economically this principle has led to success. It was our misfortune that we



could not have a Congress Government in our country during the British regime. Even after the advent of independence, the Ministry that we got follows more the traditions of the Unionist Government rather than the ideals of the Congress. This Government is going in the footsteps of Malik Khizar Hayat.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh:** He was our leader.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :-** The tenants-at-will formed 47 percent of peasants in the joint Punjab and the occupancy tenants were only 9 percent. A large majority of peasants consists of people who work with their own hands. I am sorry to say that our Government has so far paid no attention towards these poor people. The Ministry has not taken any initiative in this direction so far. I, therefore, congratulate the mover of this resolution. This resolution does not aim at usurping any rights of the land-lords. It will only give the fixity of tenure to the tenants. In other words, they shall get the right to continue to occupy the land which they are occupying at present. The land-lords shall continue to get their rent and other restrictions on the tenants shall also remain as at present. This is only a small measure. If even this is rejected by the Government public will all the more curse this Government.

Next, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the legislative measures adopted by other Provinces with regard to this matter. Even before the advent of independence in our country, the U.P. Government passed U.P. Tenancy Act in 1939, which conferred hereditary rights on all tenants-at-will, thereby putting an end to all arbitrary ejectments. Thus the tenants-at-will were given the occupancy rights. Even before the passage of this Act in U.P., there existed Agra Tenancy Acts of 1926 and 1921. According to them, the tenants could not be ejected from land for their own life time. Thus we see that the position of the tenants-at-will in that Province was quite good even sometime back. Similarly the rights of occupancy were conferred on the tenants-at-will in the Bombay Presidency according to the Bombay Tenancy Act. In Bihar and many other provinces also, the tenants have been given occupancy rights.

It has been said that the conditions in our Province are different from those prevailing in other provinces. It is due to the fact that we have not got big land-lords and jagirdars like those of the U. P. and Bihar. But it makes no difference to the tenants-at-will, whether

**[Pandit Mohan Lal]**

they are under big Zamindars or under small ones. The fact that we have small Zamindars in our province, instead of big ones, does not make the matters easier for the tenants. The Zamindars are making undue profit out of the labours of depressed classes such as Chamars, Choohras, Ramdasias etc. They work for the landlords and not for themselves. Those poor people cannot do anything except cultivating the land. They can get no services or any other work. It is the landlords who get services, memberships and even ministries. Nobody pays any attention to the poor. They can only cultivate land. They have neither influence nor money which are required for getting any service. The only thing they can do is to cultivate the land of the landlords. Even there the threat of ejectment continues to hang over their heads. I, therefore, submit that this demand for conferring the rights of occupancy on the tenants-at-will is quite reasonable and is long overdue.

I regret to find that ever since this resolution has been moved the hon. Prime Minister has been absent from his seat. This is the sympathy that is being shown to the cause of the poor tenants. I wanted to request him not to bring all the more slur on the name of Congress, by rejecting even such a small demand.

Now I come to the Land Reforms Committee that has been only recently constituted by the Government. I think the formation of Committees is only a dilatory tactics to avoid a particular measure. Whenever anything is to be put in cold storage, it is referred to a Committee. As regards this Land Reforms Committee, no time limit has been fixed for the submitting of its report, and when after all the report is submitted, it will have to be discussed in the House. What has been going on in our Province for the last six months? There has been prevailing a serious tension between the land-lords and the tenants; and clashes have occurred and resulted in litigation. Under these circumstances it was necessary that steps be taken to stop arbitrary ejectments and some reasonable rent had been fixed. But it is regretted that the Government has not done anything so far in this direction. I am afraid this Land Reforms Committee will serve no useful purpose for the tenants. This dilatory policy of the Government is inviting Communism. It is trying to retain its Ministry at any cost.

I would like to sound a note of warning to the effect that zero point has been reached now and the people cannot brook any more delay in the fulfilment of their demands. They have been anxiously waiting all this time in the hope that some Act would be passed, or failing that, some ordinance would be promulgated to safeguard the interests of the tenants. We have been ourselves telling them that they should not create any trouble in view of the critical times through which we are passing. Now they would say that we deceived them, and as such we shall not be able to face them. I may warn the Government that people have lost all patience now and they are prepared to offer Satyagraha even. They are in the right and as such they do not now care what happens. They will get their rights with the weapon of Satyagraha, if not otherwise. With these words I support this Resolution.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly South-East representing Multan Division, General, Rural). (*Hindustani*). I think this simple matter has unnecessarily been made complicated. The various problems that face us in this House are to be treated on a uniform level here. If we decide all these problems that come up for consideration before the legislature with discrimination, then we will be creating difficulties in our way. In this House you saw yesterday that in the Rent Restriction Bill...

**Mr. Speaker :** I think the hon. Member should avoid reference to the discussion that has already taken place.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Sir, what I wish to point out is that the object of this resolution is to arm the tenants, who are in possession of lands without any agreements, with such rights that landlords may not evict them or ask them to subscribe to certain undue conditions. This legal protection should be afforded in the same manner in which it is given to the house tenants living in urban areas. The concession which they enjoy should also be made available to the rural tenants.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann:** Do you mean that they should be made owners ?

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Had my hon. friend been present when Sardar Ajit Singh moved the amendment he would have received a complete reply to his question. As the saying goes ;

[Shri Behari Lal Channa]

ਮਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਹੇਜਲੀ ਫਫੇ ਕੁਟਨ

ਮਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਹੇਜਲੀ ਫਫੇ ਕੁਟਨ

A gentleman is asking for the bestowal of occupancy rights while another is demanding proprietary rights for the tenants. What I mean to say is that urban and the rural tenants should be treated on an equal footing in such matters. It is only in this way that we can induce the tenants to take interest in their work. If their rights are secure and protection is afforded to them they will do their work with confidence. With these words I second this resolution.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** (Ambala and Simla, General Rural) [*Hindustani*]. The first and the foremost duty of a Government is to improve the hard lot of the kisan and the labourer. But I am sorry to note that our Government has not come up to our expectations with regard to the discharge of this important function. I congratulate Sardar Waryam Singh on moving this resolution. Sir, I am here to lend my support to this resolution and the amendment moved by Chaudhri Sahib Ram. The condition of the poor tenants is too well known to need description. He ploughs the land and tries hard to make it yield more crops. He puts his sweat and toil into his work. But before he is able to reap any advantage out of it he is dispossessed of the land he so loved and is asked to go away bag and baggage. If he has to remain he must fall at the feet of the landlord and agree to such conditions which degrade his personality. But he has no other alternative. He must do so in order to save himself. Such a state of affairs leads to widespread unrest. Dr. Lehna Singh was recently deputed to study the conditions in the districts where large scale dispossession had taken place leading to a good deal of discontentment. But so far no practical steps appear to have been taken in this matter. If no early steps are taken the unrest may lead to disorders. We may have to suffer as a result of the chaotic conditions. The House is aware of the fact that the tide of Communism is on the increase. If the kisan is kept poor and restless Communism will flourish in this country. China and Burma could not resist this upsurge. If we wish to keep it away we must do justice to the poor and down-trodden. With these words I wholeheartedly support this resolution and the amendment moved in this House.

Besides, the land which is forcibly taken from the possession of the tenants loses its productivity. It will not be out of place to mention here that at present we are faced with the food problem. In view of this depressing food position, foodgrains worth millions of rupees are being imported into this country. If this state of affairs continues, I am sure all the development schemes of our country in general and our province in particular will continue to remain in the cold storage. The result would be that our country would not be in a position to make any improvement whatsoever. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper to confer occupancy rights upon the tenants-at-will. If this is done, the tenants will take great pains to cultivate their lands not only to their own satisfaction but also to the entire satisfaction of their landlords. They will take due care of their lands by keeping this fact in view that the land they till belongs to them as much as it belongs to the landlords. They will not hesitate to improve their land and thus will produce more and this will mean a source of great help to their landlords too. To-day the position is that landlords do not get any benefit from their lands which are desolate and unproductive. If occupancy rights are conferred upon the tenants, I am sure, they will work in the fields with greater interest knowing full well that the land belongs to them and that they will no longer be evicted from the land they till. This will result in the production of more foodgrains and will thus go a long way in making up the deficiency caused by the shortage of foodgrains in the country.

My hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana has in the course of his speech pointed out that the tenants should not only be given the occupancy rights but should also be given proprietary rights. If the landlords are not prepared to confer occupancy rights upon them how can they be prepared to give them the proprietary rights? However I have no hesitation in saying this that my hon. Friends who happen to be landlords and who do not want to confer occupancy rights upon their tenants and who cry from their house-tops that they are even prepared to confer proprietary rights upon them, are simply enjoying fun at our cost.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann:** (Question) However I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that the wars in this



**[Shri Rattan Snigh Tabib]**

world are fought on the issue of 'Haves' and 'Have-nots', or in other words on the issue of plenty and poverty. If we want our country to be free from quarrels and strifes then it is our bounden duty to raise our brethren in distress from the level of poverty and want and also to bring down those living in plenty to the same level. If this is done, I am sure, we will be doing a great service to our country. I wish to assure my hon. Friends once again that if occupancy rights are conferred upon the tenants, this will result in the good of both the tenants and the landlords. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution and the amendment now before the House with all the emphasis at my command.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the question with regard to the relationship between the tenants and the landlords owning houses and lands is rapidly gaining importance, with the public. It has been noticed that in the towns the landlord tries to eject his tenant so that he may rent it out to some one else at a higher rent. This hardship is experienced by the tenants at the hands of their rapacious landlords. In the existing economic position it is not possible for every individual to own a house or a shop, as a result of which they are at the mercy of the landlords. Similar is the case with the peasants who do not own enough land to till and thus fall in the grip of the big landlords. In this connection it has been noticed that the landlord can easily evict his tenant at his sweet will. It has also been observed that in the present trend about the uncertainty regarding the future position of land, many landlords have started evicting their tenants. Keeping these facts in view we can no longer afford to keep our eyes closed to these dynamic forces which are at work in the economic set-up of our province. I therefore suggest that Government should pay immediate attention towards this unhealthy situation. If the Government do not take bold steps in regulating the connections between the tenants and such landlords or they do not try to control such elements of dissatisfaction which are prevalent both in the towns and the villages, I am sure their policy of delay and drift will create an economic upheaval which will lead us nowhere. It will not be out of place to mention here that the



absence of adequate measures to bring these malpractices to a stop has provided a sense of security to many people who indulge in black-marketting and take pride in this social evil.

Again, we find ourselves on the brink of economic upheaval in which we see the master exploiting his servant, the literate exploiting the illiterate and the rich exploiting the poor. If we do not realise these grim realities and if we do not make all-out efforts to adjust ourselves to the changing needs of the time, we are bound to be lost in the stormy waters. A bold and timely action is the only remedy which can save us from these malpractices which threaten the solidarity of our society. In my opinion the resolution, now before the House is a very important one as it expresses the feelings of the down-trodden, depressed, exploited masses and of such others who cannot approach the authorities for getting their grievances redressed. These forces of dissatisfaction can no longer remain suppressed in our Free India. It will be wise on our part to extend the horizon of our vision and scan the reality of the present situation and thus act in accordance with the need of the hour. I think this is the only solution which can see us out of the present difficulties.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern Towns), General (Urban) [*Hindustani*]: Sir, a lot of discussion has already taken place on this resolution. So I have no desire to take much of the time of the House. I may at the outset make it clear that I am neither a landlord nor a tenant, nor does my constituency include any areas where such a problem exists. So whatever I say, should be taken as coming from an absolutely unbiassed mind and from a disinterested point of view. (Interruptions) Nor have I any such voters in my constituency. So, Sir, every word and sentence that I will utter will be free from any motive or prejudice.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member should not impute motives to others.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Sir, I do not mean to say that any members have any ulterior motives when they speak on a particular issue. I just wanted to emphasize that I was not going to speak on

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

the resolution out of any personal interest, but that I was motivated by the desire of saying something which in my opinion would be in the best interests of us all, of this Government and of this province.

Sir, the problem of landlords *versus* tenants is a very important and at the same time a very complicated one. It was keeping this thing in view that the All India Congress Committee appointed an agrarian Committee to investigate into the nature of the agrarian problem in the various provinces and submit its recommendations after fully considering the circumstances prevailing in each province. This Agrarian Committee enquired from the Provincial Governments if they would like to avail themselves of their recommendations in the matter of solving the agrarian problem in their respective provinces. Even though the Hon. Minister has denied it, I can say on the authority of the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee, Shri Kala Venkata Rao (who was formerly Revenue Minister of Madras and also a member of All India Agrarian Committee) that when the problem was discussed in the Executive Committee, it was stated on behalf of our Government that there was no agrarian problem as such, in this province. Shri Kala Venkata Rao disclosed this information not to me alone but in the presence of other members of the Provincial Congress Committee. He said that our Government had given the impression that there was no agrarian problem as such in this province. He also disclosed that our Government had not manifested any desire to avail themselves of the recommendations of the Agrarian Committee. Sir, I admit that the agrarian problem in our province is not as acute as in U. P., Bihar and some other provinces, but it would be a complete travesty of facts and tantamounts to blinding oneself to the realities, to say that this problem does not exist at all. So far as I know, there are at least three districts in our province viz., Hissar, Ferozepur and Karnal in which this problem viz., landlord, versus tenants has created great unrest and is assuming a frightful aspect, so much so that the Socialist Party is thinking of taking up the matter in its own hands. In its meeting held at Patna, the question of launching movements in the provinces, whose Governments were ignoring agrarian unrest and were doing nothing in the matter, was considered and it was decided to start 'satyagraha' in Hissar in view of the unrest prevailing among the tenants of this district. Sir, I remember very

well my hon friend Chaudhri Sahib Ram who has moved the amendment; himself persuading a responsible leader of the Socialist party, Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali, that it was not yet necessary to launch 'Satyagraha' in Hissar. He also told her that the matter would be taken to the All-India Congress Committee and that the Government of the province was also being pressed to take necessary steps in the matter. Sir, if our Government doesn't want to besmear its name beyond redemption and jeopardise its reputé for ever, it is time for it to act. If the situation is allowed to deteriorate, I am sure the socialist party would not hesitate to make capital out of agrarian unrest in this province.

Sir, the resolution that is before the House only embodies a proposal to confer occupancy rights on tenants-at-will. It is a pity, Sir, that the real tillers of soil should be at the mercy of the landlords who have no scruples in ejecting their tenants every year on the slightest pretext. So far as the occupancy tenants are concerned, they have at least a little sense of security since they know that so long as they go on cultivating land and paying the land revenue, they would not be ejected. In other provinces such legislation has already been enacted but, alas, our Government is paying no heed to this problem. This problem has been before our Government for the last one year and a half but all that has been done after this inordinate delay is the appointment of a Committee of M. L. A.s to report on the matter. Sir, I feel in this province as in the rest of this country, the best way to put a thing into cold storage is to refer it to a Committee without fixing any time-limit for submission of its report and without clarifying its points of reference. In such cases, Sir, it really does not make any difference whether the Committee submits its report or not, makes any recommendations or not. After giving the matter its active consideration for a year and a half, our Government too has appointed one such Committee.

Now I again advert to the resolution that is under discussion. My able Friend has moved an amendment that instead of '30 years' the words '5 years' be substituted so that those tenants-at-will who have been in continuous possession for a period of five years on or

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

before the 15th August., 1947, may be granted occupancy rights. It is not proposed to distribute all land among the peasants, following the Russian example, nor is it proposed to confer proprietary rights on them. The resolution makes only a very modest recommendation to the Government viz, that tenants-at-will should be guaranteed their continuance on the lands they are cultivating and be saved from ejectment. In my opinion, Sir, this resolution even if it is amended as desired by Chaudhri Sahib Ram, would be of a very modest nature. I am really surprised to read the 'party whip' which directs that as it is not necessary to vote on this measure, the Members should abstain from voting. So far as I think, it can mean only two things. Either the Government thinks that this resolution is quite right and should be adopted or that it is useless. I fail to understand Government's attitude on this resolution. It is far from my intention to criticise the party whip or to question the propriety of this convention of party system but I feel, Sir, that our real judge, to whom we are ultimately responsible, is the electorate. I want to emphasize again that our Government is not realizing the gravity of the situation in the province. If, Sir, we were allowed to vote independently, I am sure the resolution would be passed by an overwhelming majority. Even if this measure is made a little drastic, it will get the approval of the House. Sir, what I want to submit is that our Government should give up its policy of letting things drift which it has been pursuing for the last year and a half. I feel that instead of necessitating the coming of this resolution before the House, the Government should have foreseen its necessity and introduced tenancy legislation of its own accord. Well, if it has neglected to do so, it should now accept this resolution and put it into effect honestly. In comparison with the Governments of other provinces, our Government is at an advantage and will have to face less difficulties. I explain myself.

As a result of the partition, a large number of landlords and tenants have been uprooted from West Punjab. While rehabilitating them in the lands abandoned by Muslims, such policy should be adopted, which might go towards making the solution of the agrarian problem in this province easier. Sir, the Government, should bring reforms of tenancy legislation as early as possible for the better-

ment of the tenant class in the province. This peasant problem if not tackled properly might disturb the atmosphere of the province. The tenants are organising them-selves and the movement is getting momentum in the districts of Hissar, Karnal, Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana. I am sorry to say that the state of affairs has come to such a pass that the Congress workers of this province who were working amongst the Kisans were not well treated when they tried to hold All-India Kisan Conference where Shri Jai Ram Dass Daulat Ram the Food Minister, of Indian Union, Mr. Ranga, member of the Congress Working Committee and the East Punjab Labour Minister were to come. That Conference was not allowed to be held. Some Congress Workers had to court arrest. It is obvious that our Government is paying very scant regard to the feelings of the masses and is pursuing the policy of 'wait and see'. I would ask the Government if it is waiting for that day when the unrest amongst this class of people might create such conditions in the province which may perhaps be beyond the power of the Government to control. These agrarian problems must be solved immediately for which the resolution has been brought before the House. The Government should take this opportunity by the forelock to pacify the disturbed feelings of these down-trodden people. By the go-slow policy of the Government they have realised that the Government is not evincing much interest in their welfare and feelings of dissatisfaction and frustration prevail amongst them throughout the length and breadth of the province. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to give anxious thought to this resolution and earn their good-will and gratitude by accepting it. I again repeat it on the floor of this House that such a gesture of good-will will go a long way to mitigate the age-long sufferings of these down-trodden people who have actually nursed the landlords by their sweat and blood. We must realise that the events are taking a turn for the worst at present. The forces of evil are gathering strength every day. Such disorders, as the House is aware, are already convulsing China, Burma and Malaya. It is high time, therefore, that we should realise the danger lying ahead of us and nip these forces in the bud before it is too late. The Government should realise their present weaknesses and unhealthy complexes and make every effort to root them out. It is only by giving a square deal to these poor people-the tenants class-that they can provide strong pillars against any assault by evil forces which are at present working to have a strong-hold in our country.



**Chaudhri Lahri Singh** (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House but would confine myself to the main and important principles which have got close bearing upon the resolution which is at present under discussion before the House. At the very outset, I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the Congress programme and its basic principles as preached by the Congress leaders while taking up the reins of office. After the attainment of freedom, the Congress had declared in unambiguous terms that it would use all its energies for the up-lift of the common man. The press and the platform were flooded with propaganda that in free India there can be no distinction of caste, creed and religion or of classes resulting in domination of one section by another. Day in and day out such high-sounding declarations were made by the All-India Congress Committee and the hon. Premier showed great grit and determination to eradicate corruption root and branch from the Government departments. He also made loud professions that the Government will do its best to raise the status of the common man. On hearing these speeches of the Congress leaders the tenant class had some misgivings as to whether the Congress Government would be able to fulfill its pledges to the people. What I find is that the policy pursued by the present Government is not compatible with the rosy picture depicted by it sometime ago. The real independence, I mean economic independence, is still far off. The poverty of the teeming millions remains today as ever before. The common man is still steeped in adversity and ignorance. Our Government has the same weaknesses and has paid scant regard for the betterment of the poor class. It has not brought peace in the land and has not removed the causes of discontent. Its achievements are by no means of high order and do not compare favourably with the Unionist Government of the United Punjab. It may rather invoke ironical smile from the Ex-Minister of the Unionist Government, if he were to sit in judgment of the actions of our present Government. The hopes of the tenant class have been completely falsified as they have not obtained the amelioration they longed for. In the last election in the United Punjab, the majority of the members who got returned were big landlords. In the Cabinet, the Ministers also represented the landlords' interests. It was no wonder if that Government did not show much sympathy and readiness to keep the tenant class satisfied in every way. After the



partition of the province we felt rejoiced that the Leader of the Opposition in the United Punjab had become the Premier of the new province now called the East Punjab. Fortunately enough, the Cabinet which was formed did not include any element representing the interests of landlords. The tenants class had now thought that they had a bright future before them and had pinned their hopes in the present Ministry. But I fail to understand why Sardar Swaran Singh who is a small landholder shows reactionary attitude towards the interests of the tenants. It may be recalled that when the cabinet was formed after the 15th August 1947, Chaudhri Sahib Ram distributed hand-bills to the effect that the case of tenants will receive top priority in the new regime. The hon. Premier also held out hopes in public meetings held at Sirsa that the Government was keen to help and serve the tenants.

**Mr. Speaker:** Disclosure of Cabinet secrets is not allowed.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh:** Sir, the hon. Revenue Minister also held out assurances that immediate action will be taken by the Government in this behalf. The result of these assurances was that the tenants who agitated for their just demands were dubbed as communists and sent to the Jail. Under these circumstances I cannot help coming to the irresistible conclusion that the Government have failed to implement their promises for the uplift of the tenants. In the absence of any landlord in this Assembly and in view of the fact that there is no keen opposition to the proposed measure from any quarter I wonder why the Government is persisting to pursue a policy of 'wait and see'. This is a matter about which the Government should take immediate action by promulgating an ordinance or by passing some law. Thousands of tenants are being ejected every day. This is going on not only in Sonapat but in several other places. In some villages of Sonapat, tenants have been evicted even from their houses. If the Government really wishes to uplift the poor it should not delay action in this matter. This demand should not cause annoyance to anybody. After getting land for these tenants, we shall deal with the capitalists and factory-owners. It will be their turn then to account for what they do. They enjoy cock-tail parties and dances with the wealth which is produced for them by the poor labourers. When the British rule has ended and the Rajas and Maharajas have

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh]

been liquidated, capitalists and industrialists like Lala Behari Lal Chanana should also learn a lesson. I hope that by passing this measure, the Hon. Premier will give a proof of his sympathy for the poor tenants.

**Premier:** (The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, I have heard the speeches delivered by my Friends and have been surprised to find that even those persons who own huge buildings and are at the same time agriculturists have been trying to show their lip sympathy with the tenants. As statutory agriculturists under the Land Alienation Act, these gentlemen own lands in villages and live in big bungalows in the towns. They have tried to advise persons who own neither land nor home.

It has been said, Sir, that we are not acting according to the Congress manifesto. In 1946, when my hon. Friend was a Minister, there was agrarian trouble in the home district of Chaudhri Sahib Ram, when many tenants were arrested. Congress manifesto was there at that time also and some of us (members of party) were asked to proceed to the spot and settle the matter. May I know as to why decision was not taken on the basis of Congress manifesto which existed at that time also ?

Then, Sir, it has been said that a conference was to be held in Abohar which was to be attended by Professor Ranga, the hon. Shri Jai Ram Das Daulat Ram and the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad. The Government is blamed for having banned that conference. We have been charged with not having permitted the tenants to voice their feelings. People who say such things, in order to show their sympathy for the tenants, are not their real friends and are not doing justice to their cause. They should know that Section 144 was in force in Abohar. This had been applied because there was apprehension of trouble. I explained this thing to the Secretary of the Conference. When the Professor enquired from me about it, I explained the whole situation to him, and as a result thereof he postponed the conference. I know the views of Professor Ranga. He is a member of the Congress Working Committee and of the Constituent Assembly. I am

not afraid of anybody expressing his views. Was not a Socialist Conference held recently ? Shri Jai Prakash Narain and Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali expressed their views in that conference. Has not Chaudhri Sahib Ram recently given a statement that he would do this and that and was it not at his instance that Mrs. Asaf Ali and others postponed their proposed Satyagraha movement? It is in no way true to say that we do not want to permit the tenants to express their views. In my opinion, we should face the real problem, without bringing in extraneous matters. According to the proposed resolution, a tenant at-will who has been in possession of land for thirty years continuously, should be given the rights of an occupancy tenant. According to the amendment, a person who has been a tenant for five years preceding August 15, 1947, should be given occupancy rights. While delivering speeches, it is presumed that every land-lord owns a large area of land which he gets tilled by tenants. It has been argued that these tenants should be made occupancy tenants. It is forgotten that a vast majority of land-lords own a very small area of land. A person who owns less than five or ten acres cannot maintain himself on that land. He has necessarily to take more land on lease or has to lease out his own to some other person. If you confer occupancy rights on the tenants, you will be rendering landless a large number of petty landlords. This would be unfair. Suppose the owner of a small piece of land joins the army to earn his livelihood and leases his land to some person. By giving occupancy rights to the tenant, do you wish to deprive that person of his land, because he joined the Army ? According to the Report of the Land Revenue Committee, published in 1938, 65.3 percent of land-owners own less than five acres each. The number of those who own less than ten and fifteen acres is 83.3 and 90.5 percent respectively. A person who owns less than twelve and a half acres of land will naturally have to take more land on lease in order to maintain himself and his family because  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres is the area which is counted as 'one plough area.' This means that in the light of this resolution the hon. Members wish to deprive say majority of 90.5 percent or at least 83.3 per-

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cent zamindars of the benefit that accrues to them from their small holdings.

Now take another point. This resolution makes no distinction between those tenants-at-will who have been paying the share of the zamindar regularly and those who have been defaulters. This is most unfair and I do not see any reason why the rights which are accorded to tenants who have had good relations with their land-lords should be extended to those who have not been behaving properly. But if this resolution is passed and the recommendation is acted upon, a zamindar will not be able to evict a tenant of the latter variety. This is tantamount to taking up an indefensible position and can by no stretch of imagination be called expression of sympathy for the deserving tenant. Hon. Members are all aware of what was decided at the party meeting. The party decided that this resolution may be discussed but a division should not be called. This decision was taken by the party for the reason that if this resolution which was defective in many respects and which did not help the tenants to any appreciable extent were passed, it would become incumbent on the Government, which was a popular Government, to enforce it. Apart from this the passing of the resolution was considered very undesirable as this resolution greatly militated against the interests of the tenants-at-will who had come to the East Punjab from Pakistan or say the West Pnnjab. The resolution bestows rights only on those tenants who have been in possession of lands for thirty years and even the amendment requires possession for five years. These conditions can in no case be fulfilled by the refugee tenants from West Punjab as they came here only a year or so ago. These people who are about thirty or forty thousand in number would be adversely affected and it would not be possible to rehabilitate them. The passage of the resolution was not approved of at the party meeting also for the reason that the Government had explained its position in this connection and had appointed a Land Reforms Committee with the following terms of reference :

1. To examine the tenancy legislation in East Punjab and consider the question of tenancy reforms generally.

The Committee will suggest ways for giving better rights to the tenants. It will also report on the system of zamindari which should

prevail in this province and as to what should be the respective share of the landlord and the tenant in the Nehri, Chahi and Barani areas.

2. The tenures of the tenants-at-will. If a change in tenures of tenants-at-will is recommended, the Committee may examine and report as to the special treatment in relation to their tenants-at-will to be accorded to

- i. small holders of land,
- ii. widows and minor land owners, and
- iii. land owners who are serving in any special capacity.

3. The question of reasonable level of rent.

4. The repercussion of their recommendations in so far as they affect the allottees of evacuees' lands and the lessees under them.

5. The question of converting rents paid in kind into cash rents in the case of occupancy tenants.

6. Any other matter which may hereafter be sent for consideration by the Committee, and to make recommendations as early as possible.

In addition to what I have just stated I am prepared to include any other suggestion of the hon. Members in these terms which is calculated to better the condition of the tenants. After the report is submitted by this Committee the Government will come forward with proper legislation to regulate the relations between the zamindars and their tenants. I can assure the House that all this will be done in conformity with the Congress manifesto.

Some of my hon. Friends have suggested that till such time as the Government policy has not been framed in this behalf interim orders should be passed by virtue of which nobody should be able to eject his tenants. Personally I am not opposed to this suggestion and I would request my colleague the Revenue Minister, to see that all help is afforded within the bounds of law. But here I feel like sounding a note of warning. I request the hon. Members not to come up with recommendations for any political purposes. So far as their proposals are genuine and are likely to improve the condition of the people they are always welcome. But we will certainly not give way to those who in



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fact do not aim at alleviating the sufferings of the poor tenants but just want to exploit their sentiments and feelings for overthrowing a lawfully constituted Government. Let nobody labour under a misunderstanding that we Congress-men will ever act for fear of anybody. We will always act in our own way for the uplift of our people and will never be influenced by any individual or a political party. I reiterate that we cannot be intimidated. If somebody comes forth and threatens us with Satyagraha, if his cause is right, we will put things right and will give no chance for Satyagraha. But in case he is in the wrong we would consider his action to be *Duragraha* and not *Satyagraha*. We would never listen to him but will fight the *Duragraha*.

I think the position of the Government is crystal clear and every one of the hon. Members feels satisfied about it. In these circumstances it would be proper if both the resolution and the amendment are withdrawn.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram:** In view of the assurance of the hon. Premier, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

*The amendment was by leave withdrawn.*

**Sardar Waryam Singh:** In view of what has been said by the hon. Premier, I do not press my resolution and beg leave to withdraw it.

*The resolution was by leave withdrawn.*

**PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LANGUAGES**

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) *Punjabi* Sir, I move

“Whereas the Government of India (i) has accepted the principle that a child should be instructed in the early stage of his education through the medium of the mother tongue and (ii) is of the opinion that in the larger interests of the country, it is desirable that the policy enunciated by it should be followed by all Provincial and State Governments, this Assembly recommends to the Government that steps be immediately taken to recognise [a] *Punjabi*, written in Gurmukhi script, as the Provincial Language and that it should be given the place hitherto enjoyed by Urdu in Educational Institutions and in official work in the Province and [b] Hindi in Devnagri script as the Federal Language which should be taught from the fourth primary class and



be a compulsory language thereafter. This Assembly further recommends that in regions of this Province where Hindi is the mother tongue it may be treated as Regional language of those tracts and be the medium of the instruction in the junior basic stage of compulsory education for the ages between 6 and 11 years but after the junior basic stage the language of the Province should be the medium of instruction—Hindi of course, to be continued as the Federal Language”.

Sir, the Government of India appointed a committee of educationists drawn from all over India. That committee submitted a report and the Government of India passed a resolution based on that report. That resolution of the Government of India was published in the Gazette of India of the 14th August 1948. I have brought forth my resolution founded on the above mentioned resolution of the Government of India. Before I say anything with regard to my resolution I want to make it quite clear that it does not aim at creating any difficulties in the way of our national language, Hindi. As a matter of fact no Indian would do that. The education of our children has been suffering very much due to no decision having been made on this question. Also it was being discussed in press and on platform in such a way as to inflame the public feelings for or against one of the two languages and so produce an increasing gulf between the two sections of the people. The only way to stop this controversy in press and on platform was to come to proper decisions about this question at the earliest. Therefore, seeking to save our Province from the dangers of the continuance of this sectional propaganda, I gave notice of this resolution in September 1948, to the Congress Assembly Party. I was told that it would first be discussed in the party meetings and then admitted on the agenda of this House. This, however, could not be done at that time. So I gave notice again this time and I am glad that I have been premitted to move it now.

Broadly speaking this resolution would mean that:—

- [i] Punjabi, in Gurmukhi script, should be made the Provincial

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language and should be given the place which has hitherto been enjoyed by Urdu in the Educational Institutions and official work.

[ii] Hindi in Devnagri script as a national language should be started from the 4th primary class and be a compulsory language thereafter.

[iii] The result of this would be that in the East Punjab every child will have to get instruction from the beginning in Punjabi but will have to pass in Hindi as a compulsory subject from the 4th primary class onwards. [iv] The second part of the resolution lays down that the children whose mother tongue is Hindi will have to begin their education in Hindi but will have to begin Punjabi as a compulsory subject from the 4th primary class onwards.

According to this plan our children will be knowing both Hindi and Punjabi when finishing their primary education. In official work Punjabi will replace Urdu and English will be replaced by Hindi. Therefore, according to this resolution, Hindi and Punjabi both are given their proper places in the Province. Every child gets the right of learning his or her mother tongue and every child has to learn the Provincial and the National Languages.

Now I would like to tell the House that I have calculated some facts and figures. My calculations, which are based possibly on the most correct figures available, tell us that the Punjabi-speaking people in our Province make more than 70% of the total population. It is due to this reason that I want Punjabi to be the official language of the Province and to be the medium of instruction.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to a book named 'The Gift of Tongues' by Margaret Schlauch, professor of English in the New York University. The author has given some very good points about the language question in that book. He says that the suppression of a language leads to conflicts and clashes amongst the people. Many bloody struggles have centred about claims and

oppressions which used languages as symbols. A fire for their mother tongue keeps alive in the children whose mother tongue is suppressed, even though their parents might keep on working in the offices through the medium of some other tongue. This dissatisfaction leads to serious consequences. A language is also a rallying point for people who have never enjoyed the privileges of nationhood. Keeping this writing of Margaret Schlanck in mind I most earnestly request you all to own with an open heart our common mother tongue and give it its proper place so that we may produce a well knit common brotherhood in the Province. We should not play havoc with the glorious future of our Province by letting any communal prejudice run away with our sane judgement and trying to give even the place of our mother tongue to our National Language.

Now I want to draw the attention of the House to the resolution of the Government of India which I have already mentioned and on which I have based my resolution. Before I do this I make bold to say that although no decision has been taken so far, yet I think, ultimately, it is Hindi in Devnagri script which shall become our national language. I would now read out the relevant portions of the resolution in the Gazette of India, dated 14th August 1948, on which my resolution has been based. I shall go on drawing your attention to the important points which concern my resolution.

*The Gazette of India, August 14, 1948.*

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.**

*NEW DELHI, the 10th August 1948.*

*Subject:—* Medium of instruction in Educational Institutions.

No. D. 3791/48-D. 1.

“The principle that a child should be instructed, in the early stage of his education, through the medium of the mother tongue has been accepted by the Government.” This and the sentence just following give the first point to be specially noted.

“All educationists agree that any departure from this principle is bound to be harmful to the child and therefore to the interests of the society. Unfortunately the application of this educationally sound principle in practice raises some difficulties. One question is what is to

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be considered as the mother tongue through which education has to be imparted. As is well known in every region, province and state in India a number of dialects are spoken. Children learn these dialects at home; are they to be all adopted as media of education? Unfortunately their number is large and most of them are without literature and therefore without necessary pabulum to nourish education. There are, however, about a dozen languages more or less developed, which possess literature and which seem to be marked out to become such media.

"Here a second difficulty arises. Although in some provinces one out of these languages is predominant, in others speakers of two, three or four of them live together, and there is hardly a province in which besides a principal language there are not considerable numbers of inhabitants speaking other languages.

"In the Madras province four principal languages are used, viz. Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kanarese, and in the city of Madras there are numerous speakers both of Telugu and Tamil. Similarly in Bombay province there are Marathi, Gujrati, and Kanarese speaking people, and in the city of Bombay a mixed population of Marathi, Gujrati, Urdu and Hindi speakers. In Bihar and U. P. there are certain districts and cities where along with Hindi, Bengali is spoken by many. Calcutta again is a sort of cosmopolitan town with a mixed population speaking a number of languages. In Orrisa, Oriya is the main language but in some parts Telugu is used. The Central Provinces have large areas of Marathi and Hindi speaking inhabitants. Nagpur is a city of mixed speakers of Hindi and Marathi. East Punjab has two languages—Hindi and Punjabi." This is the second important point.

"The History of European countries is a warning. England sought to impose English on Ireland, Germany, German on Poles, Eastern European countries their particular languages on pockets of inhabitants speaking foreign languages. In every case the results have been disastrous. In the case of India there does not exist any justification for adopting a policy which Europeans followed to their discomfiture," This is the third point.

Now kindly note the fourth point. "All Provincial languages are Indian languages and there is little reason why any Province in

India should seek to deprive children inhabiting that Province of their fundamental rights to receive their education through the medium of the mother tongue."

The fifth point is:— "It is obvious that if a Province has adopted any particular language as the language of administration it would be to the interest of those whose mother tongue is different, to learn it in order to claim participation in the life and privileges of the people of the Province.

"The principle of teaching through the mother tongue is then of general application, but practical considerations suggest two limitations.

"In the first place the principle applies mainly to the first stage of education, i. e., the stage of compulsory primary education, or to the group of children at the junior basic stage from the ages of 6 to 11, for the reason that"—please note at the stage of compulsory education, children should not be forced to study a language which is not their mother tongue. In the higher stages after the junior basic it will be necessary for the pupils to learn the language of the Province.

"Secondly, employment of the mother tongue for the education of the children whose numbers are extremely small will create administrative and financial difficulties,"—seventh main point, "hence it is desirable that a minimum number should be fixed for the use of their language."

What may amount to an order from the Government of India is:—  
"The Government of India is of the opinion that in the larger interests of the country it is desirable that the policy enunciated above should be followed by all Provincial and State Governments."

In the light of the above resolution no doubt is left about the right of Punjabi to get its due place as the language of the province and as the medium of instruction. In the present atmosphere I am afraid that what little I say in my own words may be made out to be controversial. Therefore I shall confine myself mostly to giving some quotations from unimpeachable sources in support of my points. Now I shall give a few extracts from Gandhi ji:—



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*Young India*, 5th, July 1928:— "There would be no need to prove such a self evident proposition that the youth of a nation to remain a nation must receive all instruction, including the highest, in its own vernacular or vernaculars. Surely, it is a self-demonstrated proposition that the youth of a nation cannot keep or establish a living contact with the masses unless their knowledge is received and assimilated through a medium understood by the people..... There never was a greater superstition than that a particular language can be incapable of expansion or of expressing obtruse or scientific ideas. A language is an exact reflection of the character and the growth of its speakers."

*Young India*, 1st June 1921. "But I would not have a single Indian to forget, neglect or be ashamed of his mother tongue, or to feel that he or she cannot think or express the best thoughts in his or her own vernacular."

*Young India*, 1st Sep. 1921: - "Finally the medium of instruction. My views on this point are too well known to need re-stating. The foreign medium" —I have not presented this extract to show that Hindi is a foreign medium in the sense that English was; Hindi not being a mother tongue for more than 70% of the people of the East Punjab, whatever Gandhi ji says here fits this question as well as it does Hindi and English "has caused brain-fag, put an undue strain upon the nerves of our children, made them crammers and imitators, unfitted for original work and thought and disabled them from filtering their learning to the family or the masses. The foreign medium has made our children practically foreigners in their own land. It is the greatest tragedy of the existing system. The foreign medium has prevented the growth of our vernaculars. If I had the powers of a despot, I would today stop the tuition of our boys and girls through a foreign medium, and require all the teachers and professors on pain of dismissal to introduce the change forthwith. I would not wait for the preparation of text-books. They will follow the change. It is an evil that needs a summary remedy."

*Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in a book 'India on the March' says:—*

Page 231.- "A living language is a throbbing, vital thing, ever changing, ever growing and mirroring the people who speak and write it. It has its roots in the masses, though its superstructure may



represent the culture of a few. While the common language of the country should be Hindustani, the provincial languages should be dominant in their respective areas ;

Page 232, "Our great provincial languages are no dialects or vernaculars as the ignorant sometimes call them. They are ancient languages with a rich inheritance, each spoken by many millions of persons, each tied up inextricably with the life and culture and ideas of the masses as well as of the upper classes.

It is axiomatic that the masses can only grow educationally and culturally through the medium of their own language. Therefore, it is inevitable that we lay stress on the provincial languages and carry on most of our work through them. The use of any other language will result in isolating the educated few from the masses and of retarding the growth of the people.—Our system of education and public work must therefore be based on the provincial languages.

What are these languages? Hindustani, of course, with its principal aspects of Hindi and Urdu, and its various dialects. Then there are Bengali, Marathi and Gujrati, sister languages of Hindi and nearly allied to it. In the south there are Tamil, Telugu, Kanada and Malayalam. Besides these are Oriya, Assamese and Sindhi, and Punjabi and Pushto in the North-West. These dozen languages cover the whole of India."

Page 241. "The official language of each province for affairs of State should be the language of the province.

State education must be governed by the rule that it should be given in the language of the student. Thus in each linguistic area the language of the area should be the medium of instruction.

University education should be in the language of the linguistic area, Hindustani and a foreign language being compulsory subjects."

**The opinion of Dr. Rajendra Prasad on this point is: —**

"Language differs from area to area and not from community to community. Thus Bengali is the language of both Hindus and Mussalmans of Bengal. So is Gujrati of Gujrat and Punjabi of the Punjab.

There is no division of the population in any part of India which coincides both in respect of language and religion. The distribution of languages is territorial and not communal or religious."

Shri Ravi Shankar Shukla, Premier Central Provinces, at page 145 of his book 'Language Policy of All-India Radio, observes:—

"It is preposterous that Punjabi should be ousted from the Punjab and replaced by Hindustani of any sort. If All-India Radio professed to worship at the shrine of 'familiarism' and if its policy is to make itself understood to as large a number as possible as made out by Mr. Clow, does it pretend for a moment that any sort of Hindustani can ever be more familiar to Punjabis than Punjabi—indisputedly their mother tongue, the speech in which the voice of every Punjabi finds its first utterance, the language of every Punjabi Home and the language which accompanies every Punjabi from the cradle to the grave? Mother tongue is infinitely sweeter than the sweetest tongue. Punjabi literature, geets and folklore express the longings, joys and sorrows which Punjabis have experienced through centuries. Punjabi is an essential part of the very being of Punjabis; without it they will be cut off from their past. Without Punjabi, the Punjab will be anything but the Punjab. It is hoped that all Punjabis irrespective of cast or creed will unite to protect their Matri-Bhasha from onslaughts of All-India Radio and of the Punjab Government."

Punjabi is a very old language and does not belong to any one community but is a common mother tongue of a large majority of people living in this province. I shall try to prove the antiquity of its origin now. The famous linguist Dr. Sir George Abraham Grierson in Linguistic Survey of India, Volume IX writes:—

"Punjabi is a language resulting from the amalgamation of two different forms of speech—old Pisacha language and the Prakrit of the midland that was the parent of Western Hindi."

John Beam in his 'A Comparative Grammar of the modern Aryan Languages of India (Hindi, Punjabi, Sindhi, Gujarati, Marathi and Bengali)

Volume I, published in 1872 says:-

"In chronological sequence we may place Hindi, Gujrati and Punjabi first, fixing their rise and establishment as modern languages, distinct from their previous existence as Prakrit, in the 11th century."

*The well known Shri Duni Chand M. A. wrote a book Bhasha Vigian भाषा-विज्ञान for which he was awarded a prize by the Punjab Government for being the best book in Hindi published in the year 1982 Bikrami (about 1926 A. D.) On page 13 of that book he says:—*

“ जो कुछ ऊपर कहा गया है उससे स्पष्ट है कि भारत-वर्ष में आर्य जनता की भाषा प्राकृत ही थी ।

उपरोक्त प्राकृत ने ही विकास मार्ग में अग्रसर होते होते अपभ्रंशों का रूप धार लिया । तदनंतर अपभ्रंशों विकसित होती होती आधुनिक आर्य भाषाओं—सिंधी, पंजाबी, पश्चिमी हिन्दी, पूर्वी, गुजराती, मराठी, बंगला, उड़िया—आदि में परिणत हो गई ” ।

On page 30 he writes:—

“ साधारणतया पंजाब की भाषा का नाम पंजाबी है । ”

While comparing Hindi and Punjabi it has been maintained in this book that the language of the people of the Punjab is Punjabi and that Punjabi is written in Gurmukhi script.

I shall now recite a couplet by Sheikh Farid of the 12th century, showing that Punjabi in its modern form, word and idiom, had quite developed even then.

“ਫਰੀਦਾ ਜੇ ਜਾਣਾ ਤਿਲ ਬੋਰੇ ਮੰਡਲ ਬੁਕ ਭਰੀ  
ਜੇ ਜਾਣਾ ਸੁ ਨਦਰਾ ਬੋਲਾ ਮਾਣ ਰਹੀ ॥ ”

This amply goes to prove that Punjabi is an old language.

I also wish to quote a few lines from the Punjabi Journal 'Punjabi Prakash' of June 1936, edited by Dr. Raghu Vira M.A., PH. D. (London), D. LITT. ET PHIL. (Holland) formerly of S.D. College, Lahore and now in Central Provinces, from which Province he has been

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sent to the Constituent Assembly of India mostly because of his services to Hindi. He has also played the most important part in the preparation of the Hindi translation of the Draft Constitution of India. Dr. Banarsi Dass M.A., Ph.D. (London) was also a co-editor of this Journal. The preface of this Journal says:--

“ਅਜ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਡਾਢੀ ਪ੍ਰਸੰਨਤਾ ਹੈ, ਕਿ ਇਕ ਵਹਰੇ ਦੇ ਲੰਮੇ ਜਤਨ ਦੇ ਪਿਛੋਂ ਅਸੀਂ “ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼” ਨੂੰ ਚਾਲੂ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਸਮਰਥ ਹੋਏ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਪਤ੍ਰਿਕਾ ਨੂੰ ਚਲਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਡਾ ਮੁਖ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਾਤ੍ਰੀ-ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਉੱਚੀਆਂ ਸਭਯ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਤੁਲ ਲਿਆਣ ਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਤਥੇ ਹੀ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਦ ਅਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਉਚੇ ਤੋਂ ਉਚੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਅਨੁਭਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਾਤ੍ਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਕਰੀਏ।”

Further some of our brethren are of the opinion that Punjabi is not a complete language in itself and that it is simply a dialect. I wish to read out to you a few lines from the ‘Linguistic Survey of India’ by Dr. Sir Grierson.

“It is a homely language redolent of the Punjab of today. .... But although homely in character, it must not be imagined that it is a rude form of speech incapable of literature. Punjabi can express any idea with its own stock of vocables and is well adapted for both prose and poetry. Its claim, to being an independent language mainly rests upon its phonetic system and on its store of words not found in Hindi.”

John Beams in his book that I have already mentioned says on its page 51 :-

“There is a flavour of wheaten flour and a reek of cottage smoke about Punjabi which is infinitely more natural and captivating than anything which the languages of the eastern parts of India can show us.”

It is a decided fact that a developed language has many dialects and the very fact that there are many dialects of a language goes to prove that the said language has a definite place of its own in the life of the area speaking the main language and the dialects, and that it is more than a dialect.

Dr. Raghu Vira says-

**‘ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਾਂਗੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਵੀ ਕਈ ਉਪਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਹਨ ।’**

Some of my brethren are of the opinion that there is no literature whatsoever in Punjabi. Here I wish to quote an instance. A person who, wrapped in warm quilt from top to toe, after a very sound sleep wakes up the next day at noon and thinks that the sun has not risen yet. It is really difficult to convince such a person that what he said was not a fact and that it is already noon. Neither the Sun nor the person who had got up from his bed before the sun-rise and had tried his best to convince him that it was already noon, are at fault. In fact the fault lay with the person who did not care to look outside and see for himself as to how far he was justified in holding his view. Similarly I find that our brethren who hold the view that Punjabi is not an old language and that there is no literature in it, are only dreaming as they have not made any effort to probe into the realities of the matter. Without going into the details of this matter and finding the origin of the language, they go on propagating against it, with a view to grinding their own axes. But I make bold to submit that there is much literature in the Punjabi language.

Now about the script of the Punjabi Language. My friends will subscribe to my view when I say that it takes centuries for a nation to succeed in its struggle for existence. The character and the characteristics of a people grow and develop due to the efforts they make during the centuries of their struggle for existence. The language and its script also grow side by side with the growth of the people. Every script is specialised for the language for which it had been created, and the language is best written in that script. If the script of the language is changed the language either dies or is changed in such a way that the people cannot express or understand their thoughts in it. Punjabi script, popularly known as Gurmukhi, is very old and specialised for it. Guru Nanak Dev ji simply polished it and brought it to its present accepted form. Rev. J. Newton in his ‘Grammar of the Punjabi Language’ published in 1851 writes

“It is a common belief amongst the people that these (the Punjabi letters) were originated by Baba Nank. It is certain however that what

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ever hand he may have had in modifying their form, most of them have with slight variation in their structure come down from a very much remote anti-quity. Of the entire number 35, no less than 21 can, though they have under-gone some change, be distinctly recognised in the ancient inscriptions, 6 at least being traceable to the 10th century A. D., 3 to the 5th century B. C. and 12 to the 3rd century B. C."

Here I have also a dictionary of the Punjabi language with me which was published by the Ludhiana Mission in 1852. In this Dictionary the Punjabi words are written in Gurmukhi script and on the fly-page (iv) it says:—

"4. The character here adopted, and ordinarily used in writing Punjabi, is that known as the Gurmukhi."

*Shri Ram Murti Mahrotra M. A. Agra M. A. (Lakhnou) has written a book 'Lipi-Vikaf' the third edition of which has been published in 1947, testifying the esteem this book is looked at with. In this book he discusses Gurmukhi script accepting it as the script for Punjabi and on page 70 while comparing Gurmukhi with Devnagri script says*

“ सौन्दर्य तथा निश्चय गुण दोनों में समान हैं ” ।

Dr. Banarsi Das M. A., PH. D. (London) who has been a professor of Hindi in the Punjab University for 35 years in his book 'Punjabi Language and its literature, “ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਤੇ ਉਸਦਾ ਸਾਹਿਤ ” on the page 190 says.

“ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੀ ਅਪਣੀ ਲਿਪੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵੀ ਆਖਦੇ ਹਨ ”

*It being 6 P. M. of the clock, Shrimati Sita Devi was called to move her motion.*

#### PREVENTION OF HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES BILL

**Shrimati Sita Devi** (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore city, General, Women, Urban) (Hindustani) : Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be taken into consideration at once.



The Bill that I have just commended to the House for immediate consideration is the same Bill which I had succeeded, though after a good deal of botheration to myself, in bringing before the House in the last session. It was with much difficulty that I secured permission to introduce it. I had hoped that this Bill would be seen through in this Budget Session. But it has been truly said that power is a great thing and those who have power, short of changing the day into night, can do anything on the face of the earth. As there are only three ladies in this House the power is in the hands of gentlemen. I know that many efforts were made not to let this Bill come before the House in this Session. Nor am I unaware of the obstacles that some hon. Members tried to put in my way. Again, Sir, from three o' clock to-day to 5—30 P. M. discussion has been taking place on a single resolution. What is the result of wasting so much breath on it? We have already seen that. The resolution in question has been well drawn. It was all sound and fury, signifying nothing. Another resolution, which was moved by a lady Member, was given only twenty to twenty five minutes. This Bill which in my opinion is of very great importance, has been given just half an hour towards the end. Still something is better than nothing and I do not complain.

Sir, the social conditions prevailing in the province make it imperative that this measure should have been enacted in this very Session. When similar legislation has already been enacted in Bombay and Madras, there is no reason why it should have been delayed in this province. I know the reasons why those who are against the passage of this measure have succeeded in their efforts to keep it in suspense. Its main cause lies in the backwardness of the women community of this province. This backwardness of women and in fact of the whole country is a legacy of the British rule. Our British rulers desired more than anything else that India should rot in the mire of social ills, so that it may not be able to progress in any sphere. From the first Census Report published in the British regime, we find that only one per cent women were literate at that time in this country. Sir, when this was the state of affairs

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in the sphere of education, how could women of India have the sense to realize their backwardness and ignorance and how without the light of knowledge, could they have the courage and the boldness to raise their voice against the social tyrannies and bad customs by which men kept them suppressed and depressed, no better than slaves? Sir, whenever any sensible person advocated the cause of women and raised his or her voice against these social injustices, the cry of religion in danger was raised by the so-called 'custodians' of religion and insurmountable obstacles were put in the way of reform of these evils. This cry used to have had its effect on women too steeped in ignorance and superstition as they were and the question of removing the social evils was again shelved. Same old hollow arguments are being advanced by the self-constituted custodians of Hindu Dharm against the Hindu Code Bill in the Central Assembly. The hon. Members, belonging to Hissar and Rohtak are also opposed to my bill for similar reasons. It is chiefly on account of the people of these districts that women community in this province is the victim of innumerable social evils. Whenever any social reform is advocated these 'custodians' of religion raise a hue and cry (Interruption.)

**Mr. Speaker:**—Order, please. Chaudhri Lahri Singh will have his turn to speak.

Shrimati Sita Devi:—Sir, many years ago when our country had reached the lowest ebb of degradation and turpitude, Maharishi Daya Nand raised his voice against social evils. Besides many other things, he preached that a girl should not marry before she was sixteen and a boy until he was twenty five. At this time the custodians of religion, used to quote this Sanskrit Couplet to rebut the preachings of Swami Daya Nand to justify early marriages.

ਅਸਟ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਭਵੇਤ ਗੌਰੀ ਨਵ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਚਰੋਹਿਣੀ  
ਦਸ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਭਵੇਤ ਰੋਹਿਣੀ; ਕੁਸਾਲ ਅਰੋਹਮ ਰਜਸਵਲਾ  
ਅਸਟ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਭਵੇਤ ਗੌਰੀ ਨਵ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਚਰੋਹਿਣੀ  
ਦਸ ਵਰਸੀਯ ਭਵੇਤ ਰੋਹਿਣੀ ਕੁਸਾਲ ਅਰੋਹਮ ਰਜਸਵਲਾ

It means that a girl becomes 'rohini' at the age of 10 and if her marriage is not performed by that time, her parents and elder brothers, if any, would after death go to Hell.

Sir, in advocating the passage of this Bill, I have before my eyes the ancient and time-honoured ideal of one 'husband' and 'one wife' which is called in our

Hindu law books '*ek pati barat*' and '*ek patni barat*'. Who does not know the evil consequences of bigamy? Raja Dasaratha's case is known to every Hindu. In the age of Ramayana, Hindus had somewhat fallen from their ancient glory and high standard.

But even in Ramayana we have the noblest example of '*pati barat*' and '*patni barat*' in the lives of Rama and Sita. When Rama wanted to perform Rajsueygya, the Brahmans told him that he could not perform it without the presence of a wife. Instead of marrying again, it is well-known that Rama placed the golden statue of Sita by his side and got through the ceremony. Sir, I want the people of this province to realise this high ideal in their lives, so that our character might reach the ancient high standard (Interruption.)

**Mr. Speaker:** I expect the hon. Members not to interrupt the hon. lady member but let her have her say.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** Sir, I am definitely against violating the sanctity of the institution of marriage. We would never like the practice of 'Sunday marriage, Monday divorce'. We only want that bigamy be declared illegal so that the moral character of women and men of this province may be free from blemish. The All-India Women's Conference almost daily receives complaints against men who on one pretext or the other turn out their wives and marry again. The pretext which comes in handy to men is that of no issue. After four or five years if they do not have any issue, they think it proper for them to re-marry. But I know of many instances in which even after second marriage, people do not have any issue. The real trouble is that nobody cares to get the boy medically examined, before letting him marry again (*laughter*). I admit that nobody wants to die issueless but to re-marry on this pretext without ascertaining where the defect lies, is absolutely unjustifiable. After all, every woman whom such a man marries cannot suffer from the same defect. I also know of instances of the first wife bearing a child after the man had remarried. If, after ten or twelve years of married life, a couple do not have any issue, both of them should get themselves examined and try to get the defect removed. If even after two or three years treatment, no child is born, there would be some justification for second marriage. But even in such a case I think second marriage proves more of a curse than a blessing.

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Sir, I would like to impress upon the House that the plea of contracting a second or a third marriage for the sake of children has absolutely no force. If this is the main object, then such persons can easily adopt orphan refugee children as many as they like. I may focus the attention of the honourable Members on the fact that recently in Jullundur a husband aged 19 years abandoned his wife aged 14 years by taking into possession all her jewellery and contracted another marriage. In this way men violate the moral principles on which the future hopes of bride's life rest. This imposition of their will on the weaker sex is hardly justifiable. Day in and day out such cases are brought to light in which the women are the worst sufferers. The Government's sympathy for the cause of women must be lively and it should enact such a legislation in order to mitigate their sufferings. Such instances are not rare where men marry more than one wife and try to hound out the first wife on some pretext or the other and even force her to get money from her parents. Such painful incidents are reminders of the fact that women are denied the right to live with honour in this country. I would, therefore, strongly advocate the right of women to live on footing of equality with men. Women have pinned their hopes in the present ministry and hope that it will not hesitate to bring this social reform in the province. In the districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon widow marriage among the Jats is common. It is generally observed that in case any Jat dies his wife is kept by his brother.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram:** May I say that amongst the Jats we never have any widows?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** But what I would like to point out is that there are many defects also inherent in this system. A person who marries more than one wife makes his life care-worn and intolerable and his home life turns into a veritable hell. I hope that this Bill would surely be passed in the next session if not now. I know that the Government has not passed any measure so far calculated to uplift the poor and weak and I wish that the Government had taken this opportunity of taking credit by passing this Bill for the betterment of Hindu society. The Bombay Government has already gone ahead and has passed such a legislation. But in spite of your opposition I am sure that this Bill would be a reality as independence became a reality in spite of British opposition. I have already got signatures of many M. L. As in support of this Bill and I hope that this Bill will be passed by mobilising the support of other M. L. As.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved :-

That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North Western Towns, General, Urban) (Hindustani)

Sir, I beg to move :-

That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by the 30th June, 1949.

Sir, It is the twentieth century an age of revolution. It is not surprising that such a measure has been introduced by my sister. To-day every person who is down-trodden wants to rise up and likes to throw away his burden under which he is groaning. In my opinion, when a wise man notices the signs of something going wrong, he should atonce set it right. In this world, people have some times refused to grant small concessions but afterwards they had to agree to accepting heavy demands. Therefore, I think that if the present demand is not met, ladies might organise and refuse to permit a man marrying even once. (Laughter) I feel that in spite of the progress which we have made, proper place has not been given to the woman in our society. There are many defects in our social structure. The number of people possessing high character is very small. This is due to our having remained oppressed for a very long time. For these reasons, I think that this Bill should be passed as early as possible

I notice great opposition to this Bill among the Members of this House and fear that it may fail to achieve its object. It is quite possible that in the course of five or six months which will elapse before this Bill comes into force, a large number of people may marry second wives. While proposing my amendment that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion, I request the hon. Premier to take steps to prevent the



taking place of bigamous marriages during the interim period. If some such marriages take place, they should be declared void. (*Laughter*) As Shri Virendra remarked, it is not always the man who attempts to marry a second girl, but such a proposal is made sometimes by the girl herself. It would have been better if some male member had moved this Bill.

The motion for circulation is a challenge to the young girls of the East Punjab and every one of them should send her opinion about this Bill. I hope that the girls will accept the challenge and will facilitate the unanimous passage of this Bill. Nobody should be permitted to marry a second woman, even if he begets no issue from his first wife. In my opinion, if the mover of this Bill takes the trouble of obtaining the help of the wives of about eighty members of this House, there is no reason why the Bill should not be passed unanimously. With these words I propose that this Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by June 30, 1949.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion under consideration, amendment moved That the East Punjab prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th June 1949.

*The Motion was carried.*

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

**Mr. Speaker:** As honourable members are aware our Library is not what a Library of an Assembly ought to be. In order to make improvements and suggest books to be purchased during the next



year, I have appointed a Library Committee consisting of —

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar  
Prof. Sher Singh  
Shri Dev Raj Sethi  
Shri Virendra  
Sardar Ujjal Singh  
Shrimati Shanno Devi Saigal  
Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish  
Sardar Bachan Singh  
Sardar Isher Singh Majhail  
Chaudhri Sunder Singh

The Deputy Speaker will be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

**Mr. Speaker:** As required under Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure, I have appointed a House Committee consisting of —

Seth Ganga Saran  
Shri Behari Lal Chanana  
Sardar Inder Singh  
Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur

The Deputy Speaker will be the ex-officio Chairman of this Committee also.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Friday, 11th March 1949.



# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY.

*Friday, 11th March 1949.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) :** I move—

That Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, the 17th March, 1949.

*The Motion was carried.*

## BUDGET-GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now proceed to hold general discussion of the Budget

**Shri Bihm Sen Sachar :** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, before I commence the general discussion of the Budget I think it is proper that I should explain the position of a Government party member who stands up to criticise the Budget. The other day when the Hon. Finance Minister had finished his speech some people came rushing to me and inquired my opinion about it. I told them that it was a Budget of our party and I could not give my reactions for the purposes of the press. I added that I would, of course, express my opinions in the House if and when an opportunity is given to me.

Sir, I fully realise that it is our own Budget and whatever I say about it on the floor of the this House will be in this spirit. Therefore if I or any other hon. Member makes some suggestions which are in any way different from those made by the Hon. Finance Minister they should be dispassionately considered and adopted if found useful. I am

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thoroughly convinced that every one of us is responsible for the Budget which has been prepared by our Government and whatever opinion I express about it should in no case be construed as unfriendly criticism. On the other hand my remarks should be taken as that of a sympathiser and a friend. So far as the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister is concerned there is not a single hon. Member in this House who does not admire the language he has used and the way in which it has been delivered. But there may here and there be scope for some honest difference of opinion regarding the angle of vision about certain matters between him and some of us. After all every body has his own way of saying and doing things. But with regard to the speech I cannot help repeating that it was one of the most beautiful speeches ever delivered.

Now, Sir, through you I wish to invite the attention of this House to what I regard as an important trait of this speech. The Hon. Finance Minister has strained his every nerve to assure this House and through this House the people at large that the Budget, he has presented, is not a deficit Budget and is a balanced one. He appears to prove that apparently the Budget may look to be a deficit one but it is not so in reality. Perhaps he has thought it fit to make this attempt lest the hon. Members of this House should feel alarmed at the sight of the deficit. But Sir, I may here opine that personally I am not at all against such a deficit Budget, and there was absolutely no necessity on the part of the Minister to make amends for such a state of affairs. We are all aware of the resources and the conditions through which our Government or say the Finance Minister has had to pass. In these circumstances nobody could have helped a deficit and we should in no case be ashamed of it. I have absolutely no hesitation in saying that no Government could have made much lee-way in such a short time after its inception. We have had to face untold and unseen calamities on which colossal expenditure has been and is being incurred. Sir, our position after the partition is not that of a clean slate. Our commitments and liabilities have been far greater than the resources we have inherited. Such a huge machinery of the Government administration had to be kept going. Various schemes had to be financed and the officers of the different departments say Industries, Agriculture Co-operative, General Administration and Police Departments had to be paid and all this meant expense. I am of the opinion that no financial wizard of the world could have balanced this Budget which I should call a routine Budget.

Sir, you will see that the Hon. Finance Minister in his introductory remarks before arriving at a decision as to what kind of a Budget he should present has taken full three pages to explain the insurmountable difficulties and misfortunes we have had to undergo. The hon. Finance Minister has expressed in his Budget speech two types of difficulties which he has to face. He has referred to his first difficulty in the very beginning of his speech, on Page 1, and this difficulty is rather serious. He says, "During my short experience, confirmation has been made available to my long cherished conviction that Public Finance, whose task is most thankless and difficult should never be made the hand maid of politics and that a Finance Minister should steer himself clear of petty party factions and administrative intrigues and he should rise above sectional prejudices."

How glorious these ideas are! They are quite commendable. Again a little further on, the Finance Minister remarks "Although the difficulties in its way were Himalayan, I am glad to say that the Finance Department maintained on the whole, a high standard of administration conducted the stewardship of the East Punjab finance without fear or favour." Sir, if you read these two sentences in continuation, you naturally think how great were the difficulties, the Finance Minister had to face to begin with. According to him, he had to face administrative intrigues as well as pressure from outside. He had been confronted with the problem whether to favour a particular person or not. This problem had acquired an alarming shape. These were the difficulties which our Finance Minister had to face at the time of his taking over.

Now, Sir, if the conditions prevailing in the Finance Department were really so distressing, it is our right, being the members of this House, to know from our Finance Minister as to who are those people who create such difficulties in the way of administration. We want to know as to what are the administrative intrigues which would not allow the Finance Minister to work independently? Being the representatives of the people, it is our right to know as to who are the people who create obstacles in the way of smooth running of the governmental Machinery and thus violate the sanctity of such places by

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resorting to intrigues. I hope that the Finance Minister will expose such people and thus the matters will be cleared. But I think it will not be proper for him, if these difficulties are imaginary and have been created to impress the public mind. If it is done simply to create a ghost and then to demolish it, it is not fair, I should say, on the part of the Finance Minister. If these difficulties are real, they should be told and if they are not real, a reference to them in the speech is uncalled for.

The second difficulty, the Finance Minister had to face, is mentioned on page 2 of his speech. He says: "I took charge as custodian of the finances of the Province at a time when it was generally believed that India had turned the corner in the matter of recovery from the disastrous effects of the last Great War. One wretched morning, however, India woke up and found that she was again in the clutches of the demon of inflation. She was awakened to the fact that she was once again whirling in the vicious circle of rising prices and falling production. East Punjab could not remain unaffected by the economic and financial crisis which overtook the country. It upset our plans and set us thinking afresh. Shall we go ahead with our Development and Beneficent Schemes or confine ourselves to such schemes as hold out prospects of immediate productivity?" My friendly advice to the hon. Finance Minister is that, if he had called Government as the custodian of the finances of this Province instead of himself being the custodian, it would have been more proper. This is, however only a friendly advice and my personal view. May be, it would have been more befitting. And then, Sir, the Finance Minister was put in a great fix, whether to continue or to stop or to modify the Development schemes. This is being considered at a time when the resources of our Province are extremely limited and the demands for expenditure almost unlimited. What was the result of all this consideration and worry? I have tried to find it out from the pages of this speech. The hon. Members know that there are two types of expenditure, namely, the current expenditure and the new expenditure. I draw the attention of the House to page XIX of the Finance Secretary's memorandum.

"The East Punjab Post-War plans are under revision, in the light of the changed conditions of the Province after partition. For the present expenditure on such essential schemes, as are in hand, is being allowed to be incurred pending the final adoption of a Revised Post-War Plan,"



Along with this our Finance Minister has stated in his speech that some of the schemes had to be put in cold storage while others had to be modified. I wonder how these two statements can be reconciled. Again I cannot understand why the hon. Finance Minister should have experienced any difficulty while considering these schemes. There are three main sources from which a Government draws money for its expenditure. The first source is the ordinary revenues of the Province. In the East Punjab ordinary Revenues are hardly enough to meet the ordinary expenditure that the Government incurs from day to day. If you study this budget you will find it so. It has been assumed that the deficit will be made up by the money received from the Government of India. (**Minister for Finance:** It is wrong.) We see that the major item of expenditure is on Relief and Rehabilitation and the deficit on account of this item is expected to be paid by the Government of India or at least a major part of this will be paid by them, a sum of Rs. 1½ crores comes to the Provincial Government in 1949-50 on account of Post-War Development Plans. In this connection I may point out that the Government of India will pay rupee to rupee and not otherwise.

**Minister for Finance:** This is not so.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:-** I can make it clear if the hon. Finance Minister has some patience. Now if he does not even believe in the version of the Finance Secretary on Page 15 of the Memorandum, what can I do? Just study that Page.

**Minister for Finance:** These are different schemes. You are confusing them.

**Mr. Speaker:-** Order, Order. No interruptions.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** I do not think there is any hope for the subvention being increased. The item of subvention should be taken out of the ordinary Revenues. I am of the opinion that the nazul land is our precious capital. We should not allow it to be treated as a source of ordinary Revenue. The Finance Department wants to treat it like that. It is a mistake. Here I must point out to Page 16 of the Memorandum. The total amount of rupees 643 lakhs should be saved. It should be our effort to do so. But is it possible? On Page 21 of the Memorandum, we find what sort of officers we have. How can those officers who have been charged with spending unnecessarily be made to save?

From the study of this Budget we find that there is no departure from the old Budget. The items are the same. We admit that the prices of things have gone high and we cannot have anything but a deficit Budget under these circumstances. I wish to repeat here that our Budget was bound to be a deficit Budget. We have very limited resources in this small province of ours. The Hon. Finance Minister has not shown any resource while introducing the Budget except the one regarding the enhanced Sales Tax. It is not as an unfriendly critic that I am speaking on this Budget but I do so as a colleague in a constructive spirit. In the face of the limited resources we should make all out efforts to tap all possible resources and at the same time effect thrift and economy in handling every penny of the Provincial Exchequer. Let us now examine how far the Government have succeeded in tapping their resources and effecting economy. It is now a year back that the Resources and the Retrenchment Committee was set up with a view to helping the Government in the existing circumstances. But so far they have produced no results. We do not find any appreciable decrease in our expenditure and every day that passes adds to our troubles and worries.

**Minister for Finance:**—One year has not passed. It is wrong.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.** I wish to point out that may be, that one year is not over as referred to by the so called Custodian of the Finances of our Province, but in view of the urgency was not the time for which they worked quite enough to produce some useful results?

**Minister for Finance:** But the hon. Member counts 6 months as a year.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** Sir, through you I would like to bring this point home to the Government in general and the hon. Finance Minister in particular that in view of the conditions prevailing in the province it is but meet and proper to exercise scrupulous economy in our expenditure. There can be only three resources. First comes ordinary revenue which is hardly enough to meet the ordinary expenditure. The second source is that of Subventions. This year we expect such help from the Centre. But what will happen in the next year? Third source is the Public Debt. To be frank enough I do not hesitate to say that we are more afraid of raising loans than facing a deficit Budget. It will not be out of place to mention here that we have to pay a proportionate interest on the loan that we take. This affects the finances as a whole. Now the post-partitioned province of East Punjab has not the capacity to raise loans. Our present resources are inelastic. Now we are asked to depend upon Bhakra and Nangal projects. An optimistic view is being held that the first sub-station for giving electric power would be started in 1952. We are told that our province would become the hub of industrial activity and that this project would supply electric energy to every nook and corner of the Province. But we are at the same time told that it would not supply electric energy before 1952. To-day we are faced with great ordeals and difficulties and we are not in a position to attend to our daily routine work. On the other hand the problem of rehabilitating lakhs of people is a cause of great mental uneasiness. It is the bounden duty of the Government to find work and the means of livelihood for millions of needy people who are within their right to demand their privileges from the Government. We have also to bear in mind the condition of our ill-clad, ill-fed and uncared for refugee brethren. We should curtail our unnecessary expenditure. But how far it is possible to cut down our extra as well as essential expenditure is the main question before us. I wish to suggest that this can be possible only when an example is set by effecting economy at the top. On page 141 of the Budget, under the head, Servicing and Maintenance of Aircraft, we find an estimate of Rs. 40,000 for the year 1949-50. There is yet another item of Rs. 10,000 on page 140 of the Budget under the Travelling Allowance for the parliamentary Secretaries. There is no doubt that these are petty items, but I

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cannot do without saying that these will have very far reaching effects on the public and the services.

Sir, without casting any aspersions on any body in particular, I wish to ask the Government in general and the hon. Finance Minister in particular if there is any justification for spending Rs.10,000 on the travelling Allowances of the Parliamentary Secretaries. May I also know if these Parliamentary Secretaries have been entrusted with any work? Are they taking any part in the administration of the province? I have no hesitation in saying this and I make bold to submit that by providing such items of expenditure in the Budget of this small and poor province we are making ourselves the butt of ridicule. This is not all. We are also falling in the estimation of the public. These small items of expenditure have far-reaching effects on the public mind. Perhaps the Parliamentary Secretaries feel in the heart of their hearts that if the hon. Ministers can undertake their journey by air, they should at least travel by car. Under the circumstances, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly let us know the various items of expenditure provided in the Budget, where he has effected any economy. It is in the fitness of things that while keeping the resources of our province and the circumstances in which we are placed, in view, we should take adequate steps in effecting as much economy as can be possible.

Now about the Industrial Development schemes. Some amount has been provided in the Budget for these Schemes. The hon. Finance Minister, who is Minister in-charge of the Industries has provided some amount for undertaking Industrial development schemes. In this connection I would invite your attention to pages 325-337 of the Budget. A summary of the various schemes of industrial development is given at page 337. Now we have to examine them with a view to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the hon. Finance Minister's statement that 'all this development has been made possible by the facilities which the Government gave.' For this purpose we have to compare these items with similar items for which provision was made in the last Budget and find out the new schemes of industrial development that are proposed to be financed in the year 1949-50. It will be observed that most of the items given under the head Industrial development are the

same for which provision was made in 1948-49. So far as I can see, there are only three new items under this head viz. Industrial Development of Kangra valley and Simla Hills, Development of Palm Gur in East Punjab and utilization of dead animals in East Punjab, on which it is proposed to spend Rs 27,610,5,120 and 2,94,280, respectively. The rest of the items are the same, which were provided for in the Budget for 1948-49. Now a look at page 325 will make the whole position clear. While the expenditure on Industrial Education in the current year is expected to be Rs. 10,36,060 provision made in the Budget for 1949-50 for this item is of Rs 9,76,580. In all it is proposed to spend Rs 24,65,570 on Industrial Education and Industrial Development etc. in the year 1949-50 i. e. 2 lakhs more than this revised estimate for 1948-49. Sir, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether it is on the basis of this slight increase under one Head, that he hopes to bring about remarkable industrial development in the province? What has the Government done so far in this direction to justify the remark of the hon. Finance Minister that industrial development has been made possible by the facilities which the Government gave? If the starving people have managed to start some small industries to earn their bread, and to stand on their own legs, why should the Government say that there has been a great industrial development and all due to them? What have the hon. Ministers done to make such claims? Is it not a fact that even now ten to twelve lakhs of Punjabis are compelled to live out side the province, after having been driven from this province.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** We have not driven them. They ran away out of fear.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** But what have you done to remove that fear? If they do not feel secure and safe in this province and if they do not hope to receive necessary facilities here, whose fault is this? Is it not also the fault of the Government?

Sir, I have no hesitation in admitting that the hon. Finance Minister is not to blame for the proposals that emanate from other departments. He has only to see whether they can be provided for in the Budget or that they do not involve unnecessary expenditure. Finance Department itself cannot take initiative in any matter.

**Minister for Finance :** This is absolutely wrong.



**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** Sir, I do not say that an enlightened Finance Minister cannot bring any proposals or good schemes for consideration in the Cabinet meetings. I am only referring to things as they are done in actual practice. I can claim to have a little knowledge of these matters. I know from where proposals generally emanate. The Taxation Department is in the charge of hon. Prithvi Singh Azad and he is in fact in a position to make taxation proposals. Finance Department has not got much to do with this matter.

**Premier:** May I tell the hon. Member that things have changed since the time he was the Finance Minister.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** Sir, The hon. Premier says that things have now changed. I want to be excused, if what I have said is not correct. I know most of the people in the Finance Department, who prepare the Budget. I am also not un-acquainted with the procedure. Even if the Finance Department rejects a proposal, it may be passed by the Cabinet. So, Sir, it is no use blaming the hon. Finance Minister for Government's failure to rehabilitate the refugees. This Budget is to be judged by the provision it makes for rehabilitating the refugees.

Sir, I was very glad to hear the remarks made by the hon. Finance Minister in appreciation of the work of the officers of his department and I associate myself with every word that he uttered in this connection. I am one of those persons who believe that if services are properly handled and the proper spirit is infused in them, they can prove very helpful to the Government in the work of administering the province. I am really very glad to hear the hon. Minister praising the work of his Secretary. It is but proper that we should recognize the services and appreciate the work of really honest and capable officers. Whereas we want that recognition should never be grudged in the case of such officers, we also want that no quarter should be allowed to dishonest and corrupt officials. Today there is no other alternative for us but to raise the standard of public servants.

Now I advert to the Budget estimates for 1949-50, I feel, Sir, that the success or failure of our Government is to be judged by its achievement in the sphere of the rehabilitation of the uprooted people. Sir, if you look up the Budget under the head 'Relief and Rehabilitation' you will find that the amount of expenditure on evacuees and refugees as



earmarked in the Budget, aggregates to Rs. 3.57 crores. It is indicated therein that by the end of February, 1949 it is likely to come down to 2 lacs. In the beginning of October, 1949, it is expected that the camp population will be reduced to 150,000. The cost of the maintenance of these camps during the year 1949-50 is estimated to be Rs. 3,57,87,320. Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. Finance Minister, through you, that the refugees who are still in the camps and on whose maintenance huge expenditure is being incurred every year by the Government may be dispersed from the camps by giving them some financial assistance. There is a general feeling that the benefit accruing to the displaced persons is not commensurate with the large amount spent from year to year. I think the hon. Finance Minister will be well advised to release funds to be given to each family living in the camps. It will do immense good to the recipients and help them to resettle themselves somewhere instead of mal-distribution of the funds in the present way. This way of making grants to refugees will certainly be appreciated by them and would secure public recognition. For instance, if we could grant the sum of one thousand rupees to every family, it will roughly require about three crores of rupees to help  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs of people to resettle themselves. This sum, I think, will not be much as compared with the corresponding expenses which are incurred year after year by the Government. In the present way the problem to rehabilitate them will remain unsolved as ever before. So I am forced to the conclusion that the Government is not laying out money to the best advantage of the refugees and the proposed step will be in the right direction. If the financial assistance is not made available to the refugees I am afraid that these people will perish in poverty or otherwise become a source of nuisance to the society. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that this problem must of necessity be tackled at both ends of the scale even at the cost of advancement in the field of education. It is obvious that the Government of India will have to make substantial contribution for this difficult task because we cannot expect the East Punjab Government to grapple with this problem alone with its slender resources. I may draw the attention of the House that my honourable friend Dr. Lehna Singh had stated on the floor of the House that our Government had a plan to raise a township so that the refugees from Pakistan might be able to resettle themselves there. But that scheme has not matured so far. In October 1947, I suggested the extension of some of our existing towns for rehabilitating refugees, and if that had been done it would have helped and speeded up the work of their rehabilitation. Now

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when I ask the Government that financial assistance be given to the refugees, the Government takes up the stand that it would require about 8 to 10 crores of rupees which forbids undertaking that task in the present state of financial position of the Government. I would ask the Government, that it should press its claim to the Government of India to make available more funds to this stricken province so that it may be able more expeditiously to carry out its schemes for rehabilitating refugees in the province.

**Minister For Finance:** We have already done that.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** I know that the Government is already trying but by repeating these remarks I want to make their hands more strong.

I have taken much time of the House and I know that my other friends have also to speak on the Budget. Without taking more time of the House I would like to make one more observation only. Sir, as it is necessary in case of men to do heart-searching, similarly we have to study the Budget in the background of the figures in order to have an insight into it. The hon. Finance Minister has rightly remarked in the course of his Budget speech that "finance is not arithmetic: finance is a great policy". For instance, if any provision is made in the Budget for the employment of Welfare Officers, the Budget will show the estimated expenditure required to be incurred in that behalf for the whole year. The figures of expenditure as quoted in the Budget will not bespeak of a good Budget but we have to consider it in its background if the demand of keeping the required number of Welfare Officers is justified. If you want to study the true position you will have to go beyond the figures, as the figures by themselves do not speak. I may quote another instance to make the position more clear. Supposing, a Government officer is suspended by a competent authority on any charge of misconduct. He is entitled to get half pay under the rules during the period of suspension. The Government would continue to pay him his half salary so long his case is not finally decided. You know, Sir, that that amount is practically wasted as the Government do not utilise the services of the suspended officer for that interim period. The right course, in these circumstances, would be that he should be entrusted with some less important duties rather than that he be paid for doing nothing. The hon. Minister for

Finance is shaking his head. Need I say that I am referring to enquiries made in cases in which no moral turpitude is involved. Is it not a fact that in a number of cases suspended persons had to be re-instated after the result of enquiries? Thousands of rupees had to be spent on such cases. I submit that these cold figures cannot reveal anything. From there, you can know only those things, about which the hon. Finance Minister takes the House into confidence. Therefore, I hope that we will probe into these figures to find out what they stand for. There are very difficult times ahead of us. We should sit together and explore means of facing those difficulties.

**Shri Virendra :** On a point of order, Sir. I wish to draw your attention to Rule 158 of the Assembly Rules. It lays down :—

The Secretary shall cause to be prepared a full report of the proceedings of the Assembly at each of its meetings and shall, as soon as practicable, publish it in such form and manner, as the Speaker may from time to time direct.

Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the proceedings of the last Budget Session held in March 1948 have not been got published so far. There is neither any library, worth the name, in the Legislative Assembly office, nor does the Government supply any reports showing the work done by various departments. Hon. Ministers too are not pleased to tell us as to what they are doing. We have no material in the light of which we may examine the Budget proposals. Your Secretary has tried to do all he could, but I wish to point out that for want of necessary material we cannot study the Budget provisions properly. I request you to pay attention to this matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am thankful to the hon. Member for bringing to my notice the difficulty which he is experiencing in regard to the printed copies of the Debates. I can assure him that so far as the Assembly office is concerned, it is doing every thing that is possible in this connection. There are difficulties about the availability of paper and about the printing of Debates, which are beyond the control of the Assembly Department. I think, the hon. Member can help us in the matter because he owns a printing Press. (*Laughter*).

**Shri Virendra :** I agree that so far as your office is concerned, it is doing all it can, but the difficulty is that the Government has not been able to get the proceedings of the last session, printed so far.

**Mr. Speaker :** I shall invite the attention of the Government to this matter.

Let us now resume the discussion of the Budget. As the number of hon. Members who wish to take part in the general discussion of the Budget is pretty large, I have decided to prescribe a time limit. Every hon. Member will be allowed fifteen minutes.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, as Shri Bhim Sen Sachar remarked, when one wishes to speak about the budget proposals he has to think of two things. The first thing one has to consider is as to what do these figures contained in three volumes reveal. The second point which strikes is that this is our party Budget. We should not criticise it in such a manner that one who hears it may think that we are taking an uncharitable view. As friends, however it is our duty to point out defects and lacunae to the Government. I hope that the hon. Minister for Finance will take my views in the same spirit in which I express them. When, Sir, I decided to express my views about the Budget proposals, I went through the three heavy volumes in which they are printed. After going through them, I arrived at the conclusion that all that could be said about our Budget is that this is like a play which has been acted well, but which has neither plot nor story. I am reminded of another instance. While I was studying at school, sometimes the examiner set such a question paper that the students did not know what to do. In that case, we thought that perhaps the examiner might take a lenient view if we wrote very long answers. Similarly, when our Finance Minister found that the material supplied to him for preparing the Budget was not good, he decided to compile it in bulky volumes. I have looked through the Budget proposals of other provinces also. Last year I sent the volumes containing our Budget proposals to a friend of mine in the United Provinces. I did the same thing this year also, but at the time of posting, I realised that these volumes which did not contain anything useful, required more postage stamps this year.

The hon. Minister for Finance has tried to balance the Budget, in accordance with the instructions received from Government of India. I wish that in keeping with his habit, he should have taken the initiative, and should not have blindly followed the instructions. He should have presented facts as they actually stand. Once a person said to an American politician, "Well Sir, America is turning fascist", He replied "Do not worry, we will go on calling it democracy." The same is the case with our Budget. From whatever angle you may look at it, this is in reality a deficit Budget. Acting in accordance with the instructions received from Government of India, our Finance Minister has tried to present a balanced Budget. If the memorandum attached by the Finance Secretary is studied, it will become clear that it is in reality a deficit Budget. Only an attempt has been made to give it the appearance of a balanced Budget. The amount which the Government of India is expected to pay to our province has been taken into account in order to show it as a balanced Budget. There cannot be a more inefficient Government than the one, which exhausts all its resources in order to give its Budget the appearance of being balanced. If some poor and down-trodden people had been helped and there had been deficit in the Budget on that account, I would have gladly supported it. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister if he has even thought whether the red-liveried men who wait on him from morn till night can even make their both ends meet with the salaries that they get? Have they not also like others to support their families?

**Minister for Finance :** We have increased their salaries.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** But does the hon. Minister honestly feel that the increase in their salaries is adequate? On casting a glance on the Budget I find that a provision of Rs. 39,000 has been made for an engineer whereas about 400 peons or orderlies would get about Rs. 70,000. This means that one engineer is paid a sum equal to the salaries of about 200 peons. I really fail to understand why such a disparity should have been created between the salary of an engineer and that of an orderly. An engineer certainly cannot consume more than his orderly does. This is a most appalling state of affairs and it is more so when it is said that a people's Government or the Congress Government is in power.



[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

The hon. Finance Minister has said that increase under civil works is mainly due to the conversion of the existing Legislative Assembly Chamber. In all earnestness I say what right have we to sit in such a palatial and luxuriously furnished building as this Assembly Chamber if we cannot provide any amenities for the hungry, the naked and the poor? To me this Chamber presents the appearance of a tomb which has been built with the blood and the bones of the poor. I wish in place of spending such a huge sum of money on the conversion of this Chamber we had spent this very amount for building huts to accommodate those poor brethren of ours who are without any shelter. It is really a matter of great shame that we are sitting in a Chamber which is fitted with heaters and incandescent lights when the people whom we represent cannot afford even earthen lamps in their houses. We definitely have no right to go about in motor cars when our people are dying of hunger. But I may remind my hon. Friends that the responsibility of preparing such a Budget does not fall only on the Finance Minister. Every one of the hon. Members is responsible for it. Why should every one of us not accept a reduced monthly allowance of Rs. 100 in place of 300 and only one second class fare instead of two or 1½ first class fares, if such a step can help in the preparation of a better Budget? We should try to save as much money as is possible for the public good even at the cost of our own comforts. I don't think there was any necessity of spending so much on the Assembly Chamber, its carpets and other furniture.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** If you do not like the Chamber its carpets and other furniture, you can seat yourself outside on a durrie.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members should not address each other. They should always address the Chair.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:**— I had a mind to talk of many things but I shall just mention one or two as there is only a minute left out of the time that had been allotted to me. I wish to bring to the notice of the House that our Budget contains a grant for Mutiny Pensions. I consider this item to be most objectionable as this means that we are helping those who at one time rendered a yeoman service in strengthening the bonds of our slavery. Such sums in my opinion should be spent for the benefit of those families which gladly sacrificed their sons and daughters



for liberating the country.

Before I sit down, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Harijans. To my mind absolutely nothing has been done by this Government for them. A fund of rupees ten lakhs was created to help the Harijans but not a pie has been spent for them so far. This leads me to conclude that this Budget can in no case satisfy the poor classes of our people. We should have done better and if we have failed to do so now we should take a vow that in case we are called upon to prepare the next Budget that Budget will be the Budget of the poor and not of the rich.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural,) (Reserved seat). (*Hindustani*). Sir, during my speech on the Budget last year I had said that the Rehabilitation and the Law and Order Departments had ruined the Harijans and I say it again to day. I think even God will not forgive them for their excesses against this community and in case, He does so I shall call him a God of the Black Market stamp and not of truth. But it appears that my curse has had some effect as the Rehabilitation Department has come to an end. Now I have fears about the Law and Order Department lest this should also go the way of the Rehabilitation Department.

Sir, I cannot adequately describe the carelessness with which the work of resettling Harijans in rural areas has been carried on. The Harijans will never forget it. I shall just illustrate what I say by giving a concrete example. It was, I think, on the 25th of June 1948, that I came to Batala from Delhi where I had gone to attend a meeting. Immediately after my arrival I made my way to the camp and to my utter surprise found that people were being forcibly taken away from there. A very old man came crying to me and said that he had sustained a serious injury on his forehead as a result of having been pushed into a truck by some police man. Those poor Harijan refugees asked the police officials to wait for some time and let their children come back. But the police would listen to no such request of those poor people and was forcibly turning them out of that camp. After that I met the women. They told me that they

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had requested the police to wait till the return of their husbands. In reply to that request they were told that they could get more husbands elsewhere. I honestly say that tears came into my eyes when I heard these harrowing tales.

I believe it is the duty of every public man to be silent even at the risk of incurring unpopularity as it undoubtedly becomes his duty to speak out his mind when occasion requires it though it may be at the risk of his life.

Thus Mahatma Gandhi has made it quite clear that it is the duty of every public man to keep silent even at the risk of incurring unpopularity. But it is also his duty that he must speak out his mind when occasion requires it though it may endanger his life even. But I was sorry to see the treatment that was being meted out to those poor people, in free India of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. This state of affairs exists here under the Government which claims to be following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. This is the treatment that is being meted out to us and to our women. It is painful to hear the women being told that they can get other husbands elsewhere. I told them that the authorities could not forcibly send them to some other place and that they were free to go away or to remain there. I talked to the officials, in the camp. They thought that I was dissuading the Harijans from leaving the camp. I, then, gave a lecture there and I told them that they were at liberty to go or to remain. I however, wanted them to remain in Batala till the new elections when they should cast their votes. It was my duty to canvass in my favour. But at the same time I made it quite clear to them that they were free to go to any place that suited them, whether it be Hoshiarpur or any other town. These things had no effect on the officials. In the end, I told them that our sighs will bear fruit some day, though they are ineffective to-day.

As regards the Rehabilitation Department, I want to say a few words more. Sometime back, Sardar Tirlok Singh, the Director General of Rehabilitation visited Gurgaon and I happened to see him. He asked me about the rehabilitation of refugees. In reply to that, I told him the condition of the Harijan refugees of a village named Uchcha Dhagala.

**Mr. Speaker :—**The hon. Member should speak on the Budget as a whole.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** As regards the Budget, Sir, a number of speeches have been delivered by my learned Friends like Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. I have not cared to go through this big copy of the budget, because I don't think it contains anything for the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden. So I was telling about the Harijan refugees of the village named Uchcha Dhagala. Those poor people had to stay at the wells in the fields, for full one year, for want of any other accommodation. I invited the attention of the Revenue Assistant and other officials to their sad plight. But it was after full one year, that they were provided accommodation in the village. This is the speed at which Harijan refugees are being rehabilitated. It is the big people, land-lords and traders who get thousands of rupees and acres of land for their resettlement. But as regards the Harijan refugees it is said that they lived dangerously in the past and even now they can live dangerously. It is supposed that they do not require any help. No special provision has been made in the Budget for the poor Harijans.

I would, now, like to say a few words with regard to the Harijan Welfare Officers appointed by the Government. They are, commonly known as बल फेर दल देर (deceitful Officers) in the villages. They do nothing except arranging meetings for the Ministers they are almost all of them illiterate and know only Hindi or Punjabi. They are acting simply as yes-men of the local officials of the district. These officials say whatever is expected of them by the district officials. Thus they are being utilized against the interests of the Harijans. If these ten or twelve officers had been educated, they could have influenced the officials and might have done something useful for the Harijans. An uneducated person cannot do anything at present, because education is power. The appointments of these Officers have not been made on the basis of merit and qualifications. If these appointments had been fair, the officers thus appointed might have rendered some useful help to the local members. In spite of all these doings, our Government professes to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. What is God? Duty is God. The Government appointed these officers on personal considerations and not on the basis of merit. The result is that ever since their appointment about a year back, they have not done anything useful for the Harijans. On the other hand, the district officials have used them as their tools and have thus exploited their ignorance.

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I admit, Sir, that our number in the House is very small. But in the matter of conscience, the law of majority has no place. For instance we take the case of Muslim League. We did not look upon the Muslims as Indians. They came under the influence of the communal propaganda of Mr. Jinnah. We did not look upon them as our brethren and as a result of that treatment they left us. If in a city an area is dirty it will have an unwholesome effect upon whole of the city. So, you can't afford to neglect the Harijans you can do so only at your own peril. It is your duty to help them come up. It is for you to see that their standard of living is raised. If you don't do it you only cut your own roots. A law which does not aim at the good of the downtrodden is defective and unsound. Mahatma Gandhi who was a true well-wisher of Harijans had nonviolence and love for the poor as his two guiding principles of life. Had he survived for sometime more he would have done a lot for the Harijans. But now there is no one to espouse our cause. What would Mahatma Gandhi think of us? We have forgotten his ideals so soon. Harijans are being neglected. I for myself pity those people who don't treat the Harijans as respectable citizens of India, worthy of all rights and concessions. These people who treat us badly don't grasp the spirit of modern times. They lag behind. So I have nothing but pity for them. They don't understand the ideals for which Mahatma Gandhi stood and fought so bravely—the ideals of love and Ahinsa. To my Harijan friends also, I would advise to follow the path shown by the saint of our times. If we won't do so, we will spell our own ruin. We should not stoop low for nothing. We should remain contented with what we earn in a self respecting manner. We cannot redress our wrongs until and unless we follow the high principles of Mahatma Gandhi and thus make ourselves stout and strong morally to face the troubles and miseries of the downtrodden Harijans. I confidently hope that the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi will come true and the Harijans will come up to the level of others economically, socially and politically.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):

I have gone through the pages of the Memorandum of the Budget presented to the House by hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt—the Finance

Minister. I have studied the budget carefully. But I am sorry to remark that it has given me a feeling of disappointment. I have seen earlier budgets of Sir Manohar Lal's days. When I compare those budgets with the present one, I find a vast difference. Sir Manohar Lal used to place before the House a detailed picture of the finances of the year in a brilliant manner. Our Finance Minister has tried to follow in his footsteps. But he has failed to attain such lofty heights. Except for a few quotations from Western writers there is nothing new in the budget proposals. We find only figures and calculation of salaries in the various departments. No new programme or scheme is put forth. Under democratic form of Government the most important function of the Cabinet is to think out new schemes and programmes. Minor details and other small matters should be left to the services and departmental heads. But here we find this important principle thrown to the winds, with the result that the achievements of the Government during the course of these few years appear to be equal to nothing. This is not my opinion, Wherever you go, you will find the same expression of opinion. Just go through various Newspapers of the Province. There you will find it. Talk to an ordinary man. He will criticise the Government on the same score. Listen to a fellow passenger in the train. His opinion about the achievements of our Government will not be much different. All of them are not fools. What they say must have some truth in it. Their opinions are worth taking note of. What I mean to say is that this sort of public opinion should not be brushed aside carelessly. After all there must be something wrong somewhere. It is our duty to improve the sad state of affairs. Whether we travel by train or by bus or even on foot we come across people who criticise the Government in one way or the other. It clearly shows the dissatisfaction and disappointment which the people of our province experience. The reasons for this are not far to seek. I think the hon. Ministers indulge in petty matters and do not place a constructive programme before the people whom they represent. It was the bounden duty of the Government to have taken the province towards prosperity rather than keep it at a stand-still position. On the other hand the hon. Ministers try to extend their sphere of influence so that they may win over the people who can support them in the elections. This policy of pleasing a few, will not in the least keep them to stand safe and secure in their present positions. On the other hand it is only sincerity, self-sacrifice and honesty of



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purpose which constitute the solid base on which a public man can enjoy the confidence of the people. The time and the money wasted on futile propaganda, gives ample reason to the general public to feel dissatisfied with the work of the hon. Ministers. Even the Congress workers who stood by them so far and gave them this power have also changed their opinion and thus criticise their behaviour, their ways and their work. They ought to realize their position and try to get rid of these short-comings in their public life.

Again, every Congress Committee, District Congress Committee and even the Provincial Congress Committee vehemently criticise the Government. It will not be out of place to mention here that sincere and honest public men are not afraid of any criticism whatsoever: on the other hand they appreciate healthy criticism with a view to correcting their errors, if any, and at the same time find an opportunity to place the real facts before the public. The supporters and even the well-wishers of the hon. Ministers, on whose strength we see them to-day in power, have changed their opinion for they feel quite disgusted with their work. It would be really in the fitness of things if the hon. Ministers realize their position and thus try to change for the better. Whenever we place some constructive programme before them, it is natural that it will involve some more expenditure. But unfortunately we find that except for the creation of the new posts, nothing is being done for the good of the public. So many new posts have been provided in the new Expenditure which is surely going to entail a heavy expenditure and I am constrained to remark that this state of affairs is surely going to lead us to chaos. In this connection I am reminded of an instance. Sometime back, a zamindar from country-side accompanied me to Lahore where he wanted to see his son who was admitted in a local college there. On seeing the palatial buildings, grand roads and well-kept beautiful parks, he remarked that he had realized the need of the Government and had found out the reason why the Tehsildars were after them for paying the land-revenue. He was convinced of the fact that the land-revenue thus collected was spent on such grand buildings and roads.

The taxes which the agriculturists and the non-agriculturists pay



to the Provincial Exchequer are spent mostly on services and not for the good of the public. We should try to find out as to how many new hospitals, schools and roads have been provided for the public during the last year. This would really give us an idea as to how far we have progressed. To provide few men with jobs is not enough to determine the progress we have made. In fact the real progress lies in doing some substantial work for the good of the general public. It will not be out of place to mention here that many people who do not succeed in getting employment elsewhere find ample chance in securing jobs in the Civil Supplies Department. In this connection, I am reminded of the time when the Congress while sitting on the Opposition Benches of the united Punjab Legislative Assembly criticised the then Government, so much so that we felt convinced that Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan and Sir Chhotu Ram were really misleading the public. The big plans and the constructive programmes which this Opposition was placing before the then Government convinced us that as soon they would hold the reigns of the Government, they would lead us towards prosperity and progress. But alas! when such a thing actually happened it all proved to be imaginary and misleading. We also built our hopes that Diwan Chaman Lal, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and Sardar Partap Singh would work with zeal, honesty and sincerity. But I am constrained to remark that it has proved to be a mirage and that the then Government with their zest and earnestness would have worked better than the hon. Ministers who are in power to-day. I had great hopes on hon. Sardar Partap Singh and I was under the impression that his presence in the Cabinet would initiate efficiency, honesty and earnestness in the administration. But to my great surprise these expectations proved to be otherwise.

With regard to the hon. Sardar Kartar Singh I am reminded how he once, while sitting in the Opposition said in his typical Punjabi language, "we who happen to be the representatives of the people both of rural and urban areas should regard them as our masters and the hon. Ministers, other Government Officers and the hon. Members of this House are mere servants of the public." In this connection, he also narrated a story which in the fitness of things was not proper for him to relate at that time. He said that once upon a time a certain Sardar Sahib had a servant who proved dishonest by pinching one pice while getting a seer of milk for one

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anna. He wanted to employ another servant so that he may not be fleeced of this one pice. These two servants joined hands and pinched half an anna from one anna and the simple Sardar Sahib got milk worth half an anna only. On discovering the dishonesty of both, he employed a third servant so that he may get full value of his one anna. This disappointed his two old servants who conspired with the new servant and won him over to their side. They agreed to share one pice each and to get milk for the remaining one pice for their master. On observing more thinness in milk, he found that the new servant was no good. In order to check this dishonesty he thought of employing yet another servant. The arrival of the 4th servant disappointed the old three servants and they planned to dupe him. They told him that it was impossible for them to fleece their master as they would no longer be able to share one pice each. The new servant being clever enough and a masterly deceit, assured them that he would not stand in their way in getting a pice each and at the same time he would also be an equal partner in the bargain. This surprised the old three servants. When the new servant was given one anna by his master to get him milk, he went out to a milk seller's shop and scratched some remnants of cream from an empty milk pan. In the meantime Sardar Sahib had gone to sleep. The new servant succeeded in slowly rubbing this cream over his moustaches. On waking up, Sardar Sahib enquired the reason as to why no milk was served to him. His servants in one voice said that he had been served with milk and that he had emptied the tumbler. To prove this they told him to look into the mirror and find for himself whether he had taken the milk as there was yet some cream sticking to his moustaches. (*Laughter*).

Sir, The administration of the province presents a sorry picture. Every now and then, the strength of the various departments is increased on the excuse that work is suffering. At first one man is entrusted with a certain work, after sometime another is added and then a third and so on. All this is done in the name of 'efficiency of work.' But the reality is that appointments are made without judging the fitness of the candidates for a particular post and when it is found that he is unable to carry on the work, more posts are got sanctioned on the pretext that one man cannot cope alone with the work.

Wherever we go, we come across Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors coming and going. If you enquire from them, someone will say that he is a Police Inspector, another will say, I am Inspector of Civil Supplies, the third will say 'I am Inspector of Shops,' and so on. There seems to be no end to these Inspectors.

One day a lorry was passing near my village, in Narnaund Police Station. Half of the passengers were well-dressed gentlemen. I wondered where they had come from, since in the whole of our ilaqa, the number of educated persons is few and far between and I know all of them. I thought I might enquire from them as to who they were. On enquiring, I came to know that most of them were on the staff of the Police, Civil Supplies Department, Enforcement etc., and had been posted there to prevent this thing or that thing. Sir, my object in relating this incident is to emphasize the fact that there is so much of overlapping in the duties of the staff of various departments, that I consider further expansion of departments as a criminal wastage of public funds and depletion of the scanty revenues of this province. Again, I wonder, Sir, why in every Police Station in our ilaqa, a contingent of Police consisting of a Sub-Inspector, Head Constable and eight to twelve foot constables has been stationed. I may assure the hon. Home Minister that people in the rural areas on our side are not so dishonest and criminal-minded as those living in big towns and cities. To illustrate my point, I would like to relate a personal experience. This time, Chaudhri Sahib Ram compelled me to accompany him to witness the annual session of the Congress at Jaipur. We thought we might gain some experience by visiting the session of a big and well-organized body like the Congress. When we reached there, we came to know that we shall have to purchase a ticket of Rs. 25 in order to park our car inside. So we decided to park it outside where many other cars were also parked. We thought we would ask the driver to wait outside while we would attend the session. As the driver had not taken his meals, I asked him to do so. Meanwhile we saw an old woman with a load of radishes on her cart, which was being driven by her son, of about 13 years of age. The motor drives soon collected round the cart and asked the

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old women to give them radishes. When she stopped the cart, I saw that her son had only a ragged "Dhoti" and 'Pagri' on him and was shivering with cold. Now, Sir, I am going to tell you how even in this iron age, among the villagers of India there is no dearth of people who would even in dire penury refuse to swerve from the path of integrity and moral rectitude in spite of temptations. I, too, thought of buying a radish from her. So I approached her and handed her one anna and asked her to give me a radish. She replied that she was charging only one pice for a radish. I told her I had not got any pice with me and that she should take one anna and give me one radish. She refused to accept this offer and replied emphatically that she would have only one pice for a radish and would get me the balance. (*Cheers*) Sir, it is not a tale but an exact account of what happened there. Sir, this is the loftiness of character which had raised India in the estimation of the world in its hoary past. Even to-day there is no dearth of such people in the villages of India. You will not find much of Mammon-worship among them.

Now, Sir, I relate another happening which I witnessed soon after this. A very respectable gentleman came to the pandal soon after that, on a tonga with considerable luggage. He was clad in khaddar from top to toe. Sir, it is far from my intention to say that all persons in a particular organization are not honest. In every organization there are honest people as well as those who are dishonest. I am just describing what I saw with my own eyes. On getting down from the tonga, the gentleman under reference paid the tongawala one rupee. The latter meekly submitted that the gentleman had promised to pay him Rs. 1-8-0 and expressed his inability to accept one rupee. Sir, believe me when I say that for half an hour the tongawala, who happened to be a Muslim, implored and begged the gentleman to pay him his due. I am sure that such a thing would never have happened before the partition and Lalaji would have quietly paid the promised hire charges. Lalaji seemed to be puffed up with the intoxication of power. He seemed to be conscious of the fact that he had come to attend the Congress Session and that the poor tongawala could do nothing against him. At last the poor man fell down at his feet and implored him in the name of God to have pity over his poverty but Lalaji remained adamant. I was really moved to see all this. Well, Sir, this is the other type of character which we must

endeavour to rectify. I feel Sir, that the mere wearing of Gandhi caps cannot change the character of people so long as their actions do not change.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Sir, is the hon. Member relevant? While discussing the Budget, can he criticize the Congress workers?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, it was never my intention to cast aspersions on any one.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Is the hon. Member speaking against the Government or the Congress workers?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, I had to use these words because our Ministry is purely a Congress Ministry. Even if my words were unpalatable, my hon. Friend should not take them ill. I can assure him that one can hear people saying these things every day on roadsides and street corners. I am not an opponent of the Congress but I want that those hypocrites who pose as true Congressmen but whose actions belie their professions should throw away the mask and appear in their true colours. Sir, I would ask the Government that it should not feel embarrassed by any criticism which is levelled against it, but it should face the music calmly and boldly. It should not even feel perturbed if anybody is loudest in throwing any blame upon it. In fact, it should welcome the constructive criticism because it gives the Government a chance to improve its administration. It is the duty of every Member of the legislature to give frank expression of his opinion with regard to the policies pursued by the Government. I can openly say that these persons who are wearing Gandhi caps and are occupying Government benches have paid scant regard to the interests of the poor people.

12 NOON

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Sir, I would like to enquire if the hon. Member is addressing a public meeting or discussing the Budget.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I am sorry, Sir, that my hon. Friend has taken it ill. I never meant any personal attack.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** And you are anti-Congress;



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you have always pained them.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Members to address the Chair? I think the hon. Member has taken about 25 minutes. I have fixed time of 15 minutes for every speaker. The hon. Member has already taken 25 minutes. He should finish within five minutes.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I am sorry, Sir, I was under the impression that there were few speakers to-day and I would get sufficient time. I had to say many things more but that I will now lay before the House on some other occasion. I would like to focus the attention of the honourable Members on this fact that the agriculturists are predominantly in large numbers in our province. But I feel sorry to say that our Government is not paying any attention to promote the interests and welfare of this class. They do not enjoy any privileges although they contribute to a large extent to the Government exchequer. I confess that Government could not work miracle during this short space of time at its disposal, but their neglect towards the agriculturist class is distinctly visible in the fact that no provision has been made this year for the Rural Fund, Peasants Welfare Fund and Harijan Fund which used to be the cardinal feature of the Budget in the past. These funds provided a safeguard to their many ills. When we go to the villages we are severely criticised by the agriculturist class and they make us feel abashed for not pressing their just claim before the Government. I, therefore, consider it my bounden duty to impress upon the Government that to promote the interest of the people of the backward area should be its primary concern. Besides this, I would like to point out that the Government has failed to adopt appropriate measures for giving fair representation to the agriculturists in the Government services. In the past agriculturists had an essential prejudice against service, but now in the changed circumstances, they have realized that its importance as a source of stable income is all the greater for them. Now if any agriculturist in a village succeeds in getting a job in the Government department, he feels that his status has been raised. According to the population in the East Punjab, the agriculturists should get their share to the extent of 66% in the Government services. But the Government's apathy to the interest of these people is evident from the fact that they are not even given 5 per cent. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government



to collect facts and figures from each department and redress their grievances. Now, Sir, I have remembered a story which may be of some interest to the honourable Members and I would like to narrate it before the House. You are, Sir, aware of the Benaras Thugs who are known as skilful cheats and swindlers. There was a group of Thugs who wanted to do away with the life of an old woman, in order to lay their hands on her money. They thought that if they killed her, she would raise hue and cry and they might in all probability be hauled up in that way. They hatched a plot against her. They selected out of them some persons whose features bore close resemblance to that of the old woman. A cot was brought and one of them was made to lie on that cot and the remaining carried it on their shoulders. They wended their way onwards shouting "We shall kill her; we shall murder her." Such slogans attracted the passersby and one out of them got provoked by their silly remarks and enquired in a howl of rage what the matter was. But the person lying on the cot suddenly raised his head and began to laugh. The public were convinced that it was nothing but a joke and they let the people pass. They continued this process for about a week without creating any suspicion in the public mind. When they became sure that the ground had been paved they caught hold of the woman and forcibly put her on the cot and passed through the same way uttering the same slogan. The poor old woman cried but nobody listened and took notice of that incident. The clever Thugs safely reached the bank of river Ganges and there they put an end to her life. In this way they succeeded in swallowing her money. Sir, similar is the cruel fate of the common man who is crying hoarse emphasising his helplessness, but the pity is that the Government is callously indifferent to his welfare and his voice is a cry in the wilderness.

**Thakur Dalip Singh** (Kangra South, General, Rural.) (*Punjabi*)  
Sir, according to the convention of the House, I must thank the hon. Finance Minister for presenting the Budget. I do not congratulate him because it is a good budget but that he delivered his speech in an elegant style and that it contained reference to famous economists and was couched in a beautiful language. He has not provided for the amenities of Kangra residents and has said that research is in progress. I do not know when the research will be completed.

[Thakur Dalip Singh].

I shall discuss the Budget estimates from two points of view. I shall examine them as a Punjabi and also from the point of view of poor villagers. Instead of helping the villagers in any way, their difficulties have been increased. May I know, what effort has been made to reduce their burden? What has been done to lessen the evils of bribery, dearness and black-market? I am sorry to find that these things have not decreased. As Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Suraj Mal was pleased to remark, these difficulties have increased. The Government held out various promises that they would bring about improvement of conditions. But nothing has been done as yet. Public money was unnecessarily wasted in getting posters printed, in which false promises were made to the people. I do not blame the Government servants for all the corruption that is rampant. Our Ministers are to blame for it because they do not act in a manner which may put an end to this evil. When these gentlemen were ordinary congressmen, they used to blame the Ministers for accepting tea or dinner parties during their tours. Our present Ministers have surpassed all their predecessors in this respect. These gentlemen never dine or take tea at their residences. While on tour, they ask the Superintendents of Police or Deputy Commissioners to get parties arranged in their honour. Similarly, when Police Superintendents or Deputy Commissioners go on tour, they ask the Tehsildars to make such arrangements for them. Tehsildars in their turn press the Lambardars and Patwaris to entertain them to such parties. These village officers extract these things from the poor villagers. Corruption is thus increasing everyday.

In the Budget, it will be found that in addition to salaries and travelling allowance, our Ministers require a daily allowance of fifteen rupees while on tours.

Then, Sir, in order to check the rise in prices, controls have been imposed. The number of officers appointed for this purpose, in each district, is much larger than the number of articles, which have been subjected to control. Fresh graduates are appointed at sixty-five rupees per mensem and sent to villages to do what they like. Formerly, there used to be only one Civil Supplies Officer in each district to do the same work for which five or six officers are being employed now.

Let me take the case of cloth first. In many places the ration cards for obtaining cloth are not yet ready. Cloth is lying with depot-holders but people cannot get it for want of cloth-cards. We are told that paper is not available for getting these cards printed. This is how our Government functions. In the same way dearness and black-market have not been tackled.

Let us now see if the burden of taxes has been reduced. Before coming into power, our Ministers used to say that if they had their way, they would remit the land revenue of those persons who had to pay five rupees or less. Similarly, they used to tell people that they wanted Chowkidara tax to be abolished. Instead of doing anything of this kind, another tax has been levied on the poor people. When a person purchases anything worth a rupee, he has to pay two pice more on account of sales tax.

'Another tax on passengers' traffic is proposed to be levied. While our Ministers will travel by air, a poor man when he goes by bus from one place to another, will have to pay tax in addition to the fare. Telling these things to the Ministers is tantamount to crying before the deaf. It has no effect on them.

If someone says that salaries of peons or low paid employees should be raised, he is dubbed a communist.

**Minister for Finance :** Their pay has been increased.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Any body, who voices the grievances of the poor people is dubbed a communist and made victim of section 3 of the Public Safety Act.

We used to be told that more roads would be constructed, schools started and hospitals opened all over the province. Nothing, however, has been done so far. Our Ministers can find money for purchasing aeroplanes for their tours, but no funds are available for the ordinary needs of the masses. The poor and down-trodden people are becoming conscious of their rights and they have begun to realise that the Government is doing nothing

[Thakur Dalip Singh.]

for their uplift. It will not be easy now for the Ministers to catch voters by exploiting Bapu's name or by making appeals in the name of patriotism. Everybody is a patriot now. I fear that for the deeds of the Government, some innocent people like myself may also have to suffer.

Let us now look at the condition of roads, schools and hospitals. As Rao Bahadur remarked, even the Peasant Welfare Fund which had been started for our help has been abolished. There are several Harijans sitting around me. These gentlemen had been given false hopes that the Government would do many things to improve the condition of Harijans in the Province.

Now I come to the case of my own district. In the last Budget, our hon. Premier who at that time held the portfolio of Finance also held out a promise that a network of schools and hospitals would be spread in Kangra district. Not to speak of doing any thing in that direction, the Government is still considering whether a primary school should comprise four standards or five standards.

The hon. Minister for Public Works who is now present in the House, promised last year that Rani Tal would be connected with Hamirpur by a good road. This has not been done up till now. Instead of constructing more bridges, even the one that existed at Nadaun has been removed. This state of affairs cannot last long and the Government will have to change their attitude.

During discussion of the Budget last year, I made several suggestions about the development of industries. The difficulty is that the raw material and necessary things are available, but the Government is doing nothing. Sir, now I shall say a few words about the development of industries in my district. It was in November 1947 that promises were held out for industrializing Kangra and as I have many times pointed out in this House Kangra is in a position to become a centre of so many industries, for example resin, paper, silk and so many other things as the raw material required for the preparation of these articles is found here in great abundance. But to-day I am sorry to say that our hon. Ministers respect their promises more in their violation than in their observance. I have many a time thought of inviting them to my place for the sole purpose of reminding them of their promises but have not done so far, the reason

that the hon. Minister would not take the trouble of travelling by an unmetalled road. They would rather go to Dharamsala than come to Kangra.

Sir, the Government are doing absolutely nothing for the poor and backward people of my district. They would always tell us to wait and see. I have so many times brought to their notice that there are only three high schools in the whole of my district and all of them are in a miserable condition. Let me only take the case of the school at Hamirpur which has 900 boys but only thirteen teachers most of whom keep away from the school for about six months in a year. There is not sufficient roofed accommodation and the students who are poorly clad have to sit in the verandahs during the severe cold weather while it may be snowing outside. Our hon. Ministers, I know cannot feel the difficulty of the boys as they in spite of all comforts on which they don't have to spend any thing from their own pocket keep away from Simla for the greater part of winter. They appear to be doing only one thing and that is making propaganda against 'isms'. I may tell them that this empty propaganda will not find favour with the poor people who will most surely be forced to have recourse to some political party which can help uplift them. They should no longer labour under a misunderstanding that the Safety Act and section 144 which has become a permanent feature these days shall be able to hold them in power for very long. They should take a tip from the fate of the British rule or the Unionist Party rule which always depended on such measures but have now ceased to exist. Now we haven't a single member amidst us who may claim himself to be a Unionist.

In the end, Sir, I would tell the hon. Ministers that they might be able to exploit the name of Bapuji for some time but they cannot do it for all time. In case they desire to have a longer lease of life they should look to the needs of the poor and concentrate much more on the beneficent departments than they do at present.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** (Una, General, Rural) [*Hindustani*]: Sir, I greatly admire the ability of the Finance Minister who like a very clever lawyer has tried to prove a false case as a true one. He has tried to present rolled gold as pure gold. This is something most unbecoming. But in my opinion Chaudhri Sahib is not to blame as he is only



[Pandit Mohan Lal Dutta]

an accountant of the Government who has managed to get this job with great difficulty and 'has always to please his leader. However, we would have praised Chaudhri Sahib if he had contributed something towards reducing the useless and unwanted expenditure of the Government. As the House is aware we have always been crying ourselves hoarse against the travelling and other allowances of the Ministers and now to our utter dismay the exchequer of this poor province is being further burdened by the maintenance of aeroplanes for their use. We do not approve of this expenditure at all. It has been argued that aeroplanes are wanted by them to save time. It is something ridiculous. I know that they are only busy bees doing nothing. I am not aware of anything that they may have done for the poor and am, therefore, led to think that like the days of the British rule our poor province has to maintain these white elephants who do no service but cost so much. That is not all. The Ministers must have their agents who are called Parliamentary Secretaries. The hon. Members would be surprised when I tell them that for the united Punjab only eight Parliamentary Secretaries had been employed but this Government has appointed eleven Parliamentary Secretaries and two Private Parliamentary Secretaries and none of them has got any work to do. When the state of affairs has come to such a pass, I think the administration of the province cannot be run for any length of time and I cannot help saying that we are fed up with this Ministry which is in fact playing with the lives of the people.

Now Sir, I bring to your notice and through you to the notice of the House something very amusing and interesting. This Government in addition to what it spends by way of travelling and daily allowances of members of various sub-committees, has set aside Rs. 2,000 for entertaining them to tea. We had heard of the daily and the travelling allowances all right but this tea allowance is something quite new and unheard of. Such a scandalous waste of money, I am sure, was not tolerated even in the days of British rule. In my opinion, we should all the more be careful now as we are passing through times when our people are not getting even two square meals a day. We should not allow anybody to squander away our wealth in any merciless way he likes.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).*



Besides this, it is said that the Government has tried to increase its income. This free Government of ours favours the big landlords, jagirdars and rich millionaires. Although the zaildars and sufaidposhes are no more, yet our Government is inclined towards that type of people. It thinks that ours is a poor Province and therefore its income should be increased. But what about the big jagirs of the jagirdars? I wonder why all this money is not utilized for the uplift of the poor. As a matter of fact, this Government is a Congress Government only in name, its mentality is that of Unionist in reality. It loves the rich and not the poor. The big landlords are giving the same land revenue which was fixed at the time when prices were much lower than now. The best way to increase the income of the Province would have been to increase the land revenue which is got from the big zamindars. Again, the Government should have levied taxes on the hotels, ball-rooms and on the people who drink and make merry. On the other hand, tax is imposed on the commonman such as lorry traveller, confectioner etc. The rich who are making merry are allowed to go scot free. The present conditions and the signs of the Government show that we are left to the mercy of God alone.

Our hon. Finance Minister has made a beautiful remark in his speech, which I have very much appreciated. He says, "It is, however, not any physical advantages that make a country or a province great but the men at the helm of its affairs." In other words, the poverty or prosperity of this unfortunate Province depends on the men who run the Government. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the composition of our Government party, which is known as Congress Assembly Party. One-third of its members have doubtful allegiance to the Congress. Some of its members are Unionists while others are Akalies and still others are Hindu Sabhites. As regards its leader, I should say that he is constantly worried about his leadership. Similarly the other members are always on the look out for some office in the new Ministry. Some of them keep dreaming about ministership. In short all are sadly involved in this vicious circle of offices and jobs and no body pays any attention to the poor and down-trodden.

**Premier :** On a point of order. I want to know what the hon. Member is speaking on. If there is a member who is not a qualified member of the party, the Government has got nothing to do with it. The hon. Member is a member of the party, he can discuss these things in the party.

[Premier]

He can't discuss such things on general discussion of the Budget.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:**—I would ask the hon. Member to speak on the Budget only.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Dutta:** Sir, I was discussing a sentence in the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister. If you do not allow me to do that, I will begin some other topic. Before I come to my own constituency, I would like to say a few words more. This Government helps, not only big landlords and jagirdars, but also its big officers such as Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners and protects them at all costs. There is the case of Hoshiapur Deputy Commissioner of before you. The High Court has passed its judgement. In spite of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner is spoiling the communal atmosphere of the district, no action is being taken against him. As regards the A. D. M., the High Court passed remarks that he had told reckless lies. No action has been taken against the A. D. M. either. On the other hand, he has been made S. D. O. and the Deputy Commissioner is still posted in the same district. Under these circumstances, what can we hope from this Government of ours?

Now I come to my own constituency which is a sort of untouchable area. The Government pays no attention to Una Tehsil and the hilly tract of Kangra. The main cause of this neglect, I think is, that the Ministers have usually been taken to the plains. And then, the regional considerations prevail in the Government no heed is paid to the hilly tracts of my constituency. So far no Minister has been appointed from these areas and as a result of that these have been always neglected.

Other members demand that roads may be constructed in their districts and colleges started. But mine is a sort of untouchable area. We want only drinking water. We have to drink the dirty water of the tanks though the rivers and streams flow through these hilly areas.

Water water everywhere  
Not a drop to drink,

In spite of this abundance of water, we have to drink dirty water of the tanks. The previous Government had two schemes for supplying drinking water to our area. One of such schemes was started 25 years

ago and it is not completed as yet.

I sent a question also regarding this matter in the present Session of the Assembly. I was told that the matter would be taken up after the decision about the post-war schemes. Our Government can very well afford to spend on the aeroplanes but it cannot spend anything for supplying even drinking water to us. Again, there is the curse of a small stream named Sawan in our district. During the days of flood, the stream cannot be crossed and hundreds of cattle are washed away every year. I, therefore, requested the Government to get some sort of bridge constructed on that stream to enable the people to cross it during the flood days. But it is regretted that nothing has been done in this direction so far.

Again, there is the food problem. If there had not been enough gram in our Province this year, the people would have died of starvation. The Government on our request opened cheap grain depots. But they sold grains at the higher rate than in the open market. The price of gram in the open market was 9 rupees a maund while it was being sold at the price of 11 rupees a maund at the Government depots. This is the sympathy that is being shown to the poor people. With these words, I resume my seat.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair)*

**Pandit Faqir Chand** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani* : ) Sir, I congratulate the hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, the Finance Minister, not on what I find in the budget itself, but on the way he has presented it to the House. But as the saying goes -

बहुत शोर सुनते थे पहिलू में दिल का-जो चोरा तो इक कतरा ए खून निकला ॥

ਬਹੁਤ ਸ਼ੋਰ ਸੁਣਤੇ ਥੇ ਪਹਿਲੂ ਮੇਂ ਦਿਲ ਕਾ ਜੋ ਚੋਰਾ ਤੋ ਇਕ ਕਤਰਾ ਏ ਖੂਨ ਨਿਕਲਾ

there appears to be nothing new in the budget proposals. The Ministry has laid no new scheme or programme before the House. But I know it is due to no fault of the Finance Minister. He is there only to say what the Cabinet wants. The Cabinet itself is not so free as we think. The Ministers are suffering from inferiority complex. They act on the advice of big officers and I. C. S. men. They are puppets in their hands. The critics of the Government always fall upon the Ministers but spare the officers. They argue that the Ministers are

[Pandit Faqir Chand]

drawing fat salaries and that there are too many Ministers for this small province. But in my opinion, considering the responsibilities and the work of the Ministers, which has increased manifold after the partition of the Province, they are not so highly paid as some of the officers are. To keep up the prestige and grace of the high office of a Minister, we cannot reduce his salary. But we must not maintain a top-heavy administration. For twenty-nine districts of the united Punjab we had one Inspector-General of Police and one Chief Secretary and now those very officers are meant only for thirteen districts and yet the complaint is that they are overworked. More officers are being appointed. This smacks of favouritism and nepotism. Recently a Retrenchment Committee was appointed to go into the question of economy in services. Its wrath fell upon poor clerks and chaprasis. It did not touch the high paid officers. I think that instead of retrenching the poor clerks and the chaprasis the number of officers who are drawing fat salaries should be reduced. Moreover, they are the men who are responsible for creating a bad impression about the Ministers. They often talk ill of the Ministers in their private talks and in their clubs. Do the officers of Public Relations Directorate not even tell this fact to the Ministers? (An hon. Member: They themselves laugh at the Ministers). Anyhow, I am of the opinion that salaries of these officers should be reduced. Hon. Premier is not in his seat. I don't doubt his sincerity. But what I mean to lay stress on is that these officers have been against the Congress and they are trying to bring it into disrepute. Only the other day in the Grand Hotel some such talk was going on. So instead of asking for cutting down the Ministers salaries, I think we should demand that the salaries of high paid officers be cut down to a reasonable extent to make a saving in the expenditure. That is the only proper method. No new posts should be created unless it is extremely necessary to do so. But what we find is that the number of posts is being increased. Look at the P. W. D. and the Irrigation Department. Unnecessary staff is being maintained although by partition a major portion of the canals has gone to West Punjab. (An hon. Member: We have to make more canals) yes, but we may employ more staff when we need it. At present we don't need it. So, in short, what I mean to say is this that we should look to the welfare of the poor people of the Province

and try to alleviate their sufferings.

**Sardar Narotam Singh :** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Punjabi*) : There has been much of criticism on the budget presented to this House by hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt Minister for Finance. If we study the Memorandum prepared by S. Kartar Singh Malhotra—a brilliant Finance Secretary, we cannot but appreciate it. The expenditure falls under two categories :

- (i) that expenditure wherein the Ministers have no choice.
- (ii) that expenditure where Ministers have enough of choice left to them.

If we go through the Beneficent Schemes on page 35 of the Memorandum of the Budget, we will find that the expenditure on these schemes which include Education, Medical and Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries is quite justified. So far as the productive schemes which include schemes in connection with Industrial Development, Civil Works and Electricity, which require huge investments are concerned, I wish to point out that fairly large amounts have already been ear-marked for them. Further I wish to point out that in my opinion the criticism advanced by some of the hon. Members seems to be quite minor criticism. At the same time I cannot do without saying that it is just possible some criticism advanced by some of my hon. Friends may be quite justified and in that case we cannot throw the blame on the hon. Finance Minister, under whose able guidance the Budget has been framed. It is just possible that there may have been some negligence in working by the Head of the Departments. So far as the Budget is concerned, I wish to submit that if we want to know whether or not the Budget of our province is sound then we must probe into its various details and determine according to those principles the soundness or the otherwise of our Budget, which govern a really sound and a balanced Budget. If we do so, I am sure, all of us sitting here in this House would congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a sound Budget. The financial position of our province has been aptly referred to by the Finance Secretary in his Memorandum on page 40. He has said :—

At the same time our financial position though not very satisfactory one, can



**[Parliamentary Secretary]**

by no means be described as encouraging. We are just able to balance our revenue income to our revenue expenditure, exclusive of Debt, Pensionary and Development charges etc, and that too, only with the assistance of a subsidy of nearly Rs 1.75 crore per annum from the Centre."

It is crystal clear from this that we cannot lay any blame on the hon. Finance Minister whose main function is to apportion available money to be spent in the interests of the province as a whole. In fact Budget of a province is framed according to its capacity to earn and spend. At the time of framing the Budget due care is also taken to closely watch the fact that both the receipts and expenditure are properly cared for and this has been done so far as our Budget is concerned.

There is no doubt that we can criticise certain policies of the Government in respect of certain matters which may have been overlooked by it. But in spite of the fact that we are fully alive to the helplessness and the difficulties of the Government in doing a certain thing, we continue advancing criticism against it. Let us take the case of the Bhakra Dam Project. Our hopes are centred round this project which when completed would go a long way in easing our food problem to a great extent. We want that this construction should be completed at top-speed. In fact we should be thankful to the Government for spending adequate sums on this project. I wish to submit that in case the Government want more money for this purpose, it should not hesitate to get loans from the Centre or elsewhere with a view to meeting the various demands in connection with the construction of this project or hand it over to the Centre if finances cannot be arranged. Our food problem which is very acute these days and is causing headache to the various Governments in the country would be solved as soon as Bhakra Canal starts irrigating the areas neglected in the past. It will not be out of place to mention here that in every nook and corner of the province the only thing that Zamindars want forthwith is water for irrigating their lands. If water is made available to zamindars for irrigating their lands, I am sure we will not have to face any food deficits in future. Sardar Lal Singh, Director of Agriculture, East Punjab, has maintained that our province is soon going to become the granary of India. Under the circumstances, it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to spend maximum amount on the construction of this project and development of agriculture. Keeping the financial position of the province in view, I would like to suggest that by curtailing expenditure



of various departments and also by keeping in abeyance some of the productive schemes, the savings thus effected should be utilised by the Government on this project with a view to solving the food problem.

My hon. Friend Pandit Mohan Lal has in the course of his speech pointed out that there is a great scarcity of drinking water in some places. I say it is the greatest in Hissar and that should be the first concern of the Government and its removal should be of first priority as it is the most elementary human want. Government must supply drinking water irrespective of what it costs to it. It goes without saying that foodgrains and drinking water are very essential for human consumption. In this connection, I would request the Government to make all-out efforts to complete all the electricity schemes. In fact the conditions prevailing at present in the province demand the completion of all the electricity schemes at an early date. It is a well established fact that the prosperity of a province mostly depends upon its agricultural and industrial development. In my opinion agricultural schemes should be given priority over other schemes with a view to solving our food problem and at the same time helping the majority of the people of our province who depend on agriculture. The turn of the Industrial schemes should come next. In the end, I would request the Government to complete the Bhakra Dam project at top speed. This Scheme should primarily be for Haryana Prant. If any surplus water is left only then it should be given elsewhere. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann** (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the Budget for the year 1949-50 which has been introduced in this House happens to be the Budget of those 13 districts, which before the partition of the united Punjab were most deficit districts and where the people, who could not grow foodgrains, Cotton, and other commodities were not prosperous. Plainly speaking, on account of the limited resources, there could be only a deficit Budget. I cannot do without congratulating the hon. Finance Minister who has taken great pains in preparing a balanced Budget. Those of my hon. Friends who have in the course of their speeches pointed that there is nothing worth mentioning in the Budget have studied it from a different angle. Perhaps they have forgotten that the resources of these 13 districts were very limited. I am really

[Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann]

surprised to see that in the united Punjab Assembly, hon. Members representing these districts did not take any pains in pressing the then Government for providing adequate amenities for these districts. Here in this province we find neither well-equipped hospitals nor well maintained roads, nor are there to be found even ordinary education facilities. This is not all. Improved agricultural implements are not used here. There are no arrangements for improved seed farming. In short, this post-partitioned province of East Punjab lacks in every thing that is good and useful.

Our province is an agricultural province where the majority of people depend on agriculture. In my opinion, the Budget of the Province is an agricultural Budget. I am really surprised and at the same time constrained to see that here people who mostly depend on agriculture do not know how to sow seeds, grow cotton or sugarcane. They do not know even how rubbish and refuse of animals should be collected for manure purposes. I am, of the opinion, that if the Government, in general and the hon. Finance Minister in particular had not taken pains to balance our revenue income to our revenue expenditure there would have been much more deficit even beyond our expectations.

Sir, while some of my Friends have in their speeches pleaded for enhancement in the salaries of peons and clerks, obviously with a view to pleasing them and to win cheap popularity, not one of them has, however, cared to refer to the ways and means by which the Government might increase its revenues. Unless and until the revenues of the province increase, the Government cannot be in a position to enhance the salaries of its employees.

Sir, as ours is primarily an agricultural province, it is but proper that improvement in agriculture should be our first and foremost concern. It is most essential that the Government should give more attention to the improvement of agricultural methods by supplying modern implements, good seeds and by spreading knowledge of modern methods of farming amongst the cultivators than to anything else. It is generally believed that the Punjab is the one province which can never be deficit in food-grains. What do we find now? Food-grains worth crores of rupees are being imported every year to feed the people of this province. It is a matter of shame for us that we should not be able to produce

enough food for our own consumption. When we cannot produce food-grains sufficient for our own needs, how can we hope to balance the Budget of our province? Repeating again and again that ours is a deficit province or that our Budget is a deficit one, would serve no useful purpose. I once again emphasize that improvement in agriculture is the foremost need of the hour. For this purpose, it is necessary that the Agriculture Department should be declared as an A class department and should have all the funds that it needs for intensifying its activities. I can assure my hon. Friends that this province can become prosperous only through improvement in agriculture. And this is the only way to ensure balanced, if not surplus Budgets, for our province in the coming years.

Another matter to which I draw the attention of the House is that some of the places selected for starting industries are near the border of U. P. and I think that the people of U. P. will benefit from their schemes of industrial development. Central Punjab should have been the venue of this industrial development which is expected to bring about prosperity in the province. Instead of making Jagadhri, an out of the way place a centre of industries, it would have been much better to have concentrated them in Jullundur and Ludhiana. Sir, you are aware of the fact that Ludhiana is already a highly industrialized town. Rupar is another town which is suitable for starting industries but it appears no industry is proposed to be started there. The climate of Central Punjab is quite suitable for starting industries. I would request the hon. Minister to pay more attention to the development of industries in Central Punjab. My hon. Friend has alleged that every Minister who is newly appointed creates a new department. I can think of only one reason for this viz., to provide jobs to one's relatives and friends. One of the hon. Members has just stated that it is a common sight to see fifteen or sixteen officers touring the ilaqa under the jurisdiction of the same Police Station. Just as we are going to consolidate land holdings, we should also consolidate and co-ordinate the duties that are being performed by officials of different departments so that there may not be any overlapping. In this way, we can reduce burden on the provincial exchequer by retrenching unnecessary staff. To illustrate my point, I give an instance. Even though ours is a very small province consisting of only

[**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann**]

thirteen districts, the posts of Chief Secretary and Home Secretary are separate as in the United Punjab. These can be amalgamated, since the work must be much less than what it was in the united Punjab. Some of the hon. Members have referred to the increase in the number of Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries. While in the united Punjab, there used to be six Ministers and six Parliamentary Secretaries, here in this province which is only a part of the old united Punjab, we have seven Ministers and thirteen or fourteen Parliamentary Secretaries. For sometime back, the rumour has it, that it is proposed to expand the Cabinet so that there will be at least one Minister for each district.

**Minister for Development :** The candidates have also increased and so the ministerships have also increased.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann:** Well if the number of Ministers is reduced, candidates would naturally feel discouraged. In this connection, I am reminded of my Friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup. Once when a meeting of the Unionist party was being held, Chaudhri Ram Sarup rose and said that he must have his share of the booty. On hearing this Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and Chaudhri Chhotu Ram got annoyed and asked him to withdraw those words. Chaudhri Ram Sarup refused to do so and rather repeated them and urged for his share of the spoils. When they asked him what he meant by the 'loot,' he replied, "Well you have distributed ministerships and parliamentary secretaryships amongst yourselves. You are getting quotas of steel and cloth but we are not receiving any benefit. We shall certainly oppose you unless you give us a share."

Sir, what I mean to say is that this very thing is happening here in this province. In the general 'loot' which is the order of the day, everybody is taking part and getting his share. Out of our hon. Friends here, somebody is being placated by a Parliamentary secretaryship, some one by Private Parliamentary Secretaryship and some one by grant of quotas. And then we say that the budget is a deficit one and then we criticize the proposed expenditure. If we cannot travel except in first class and if we cannot forego T. A. and C. A., we should not at least misuse our position and obtain quotas with a view to making money. We should at least let the poor people have

After making money by misusing our position, it does not seem to me to preach sermons to others and to complain that no reduction has been effected in expenditure. Sir, I am not making any personal attacks nor is it my intention to cast aspersions on any one. My friend Pandit Mohan Lal has stated that everyday he hears something or the other about the imminence of a ministerial crisis. It is surprising, Sir, that when people are dying of hunger and starvation, there should be so much loose talk of the break-up of the Ministry or its reshuffle. May I ask Panditji if he is very anxiously awaiting the news of the fall of this Ministry? It appears to me that Panditji in fact desires that it should fall, since he is always thinking about this matter. To think of the fall of the Ministry everyday and then to profess loyalty to it or to pledge support to it are two contradictory things. I can only call it hypocrisy—pure and sheer. It does not become any one, least of all a Member of this august House, to say one thing and wish for exactly the opposite. With these words, I give my full support to the budget and congratulate the hon. Finance Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** As no hon. Member desires to speak, I adjourn the House.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Thursday, 17th March 1949.*





# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 17th March 1949

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P.M. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### TRACTORS PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT

**\*602. Sardar Sajjan Singh :—**Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any tractors for the cultivation of land were purchased by the Government during 1948-1949;
- (b) their number and the total cost thereof;
- (c) when were they received by the Government;
- (d) whether any estimate of the land to be cultivated by them was made; if so the area of such land;
- (e) whether these tractors were brought into use for the cultivation of the land; if so, how much land was cultivated and sown during the year;
- (f) whether any staff was recruited for the working of these tractors; if so, what was their monthly wages;
- (g) the monthly maintenance expenditure borne by the Government in connection with these tractors;
- (h) the total produce of the land cultivated by the tractors for Kharif 1948;
- (i) the total area sown for Rabi 1948-1949 by these tractors?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :—**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Eight, cost Rs. 1,56,006/-
- (c) Six in May, 1948 and two in October, 1948.
- (d) No estimate of land to be cultivated by these tractors was needed as there was keen demand for tractor cultivation from Zamindars.
- (e) Yes land cultivated during the year was as under
  - (i) Ploughed 3228 acres
  - (ii) Cultivated 770 „
  - (iii) Sohaga 752 $\frac{1}{2}$  „

(Minister for Development)

- (f) First part—Yes.  
Second part—Rs. 903/-
- (g) Rs. 1148/-
- (h) About 5200 maunds.
- (i) 1698½ acres.

### RIFLES FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONGST THE PEOPLE OF BORDER DISTRICTS

**\*675. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur:—**Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of rifles were given by the Central Government to the East Punjab Government for free distribution amongst the people living near the border in the districts of Ferozepore, Amritsar and Gurdaspur;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some of these rifles have not been distributed so far and are still lying with the East Punjab Government, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such rifles as referred to in part (b) above?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh. :—**

- (a) No.
- (b) & (c) Do not arise.

### COMMUNIST PRISONERS DETAINED IN DIFFERENT JAILS

**\*698. Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Communist prisoners placed in different jails of the Province;
- (b) whether there are any Communist prisoners detained in 'C' class;
- (c) whether it is not against the declared policy of the Government to abolish classification of the Political prisoners?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :—**

- (a) 206 on 4-3-1949.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**Is it a fact that Sardar Natha Singh, Sardar Nidhan Singh and Shri Krishan were placed in 'C' class?

**Minister :—**There is no communist prisoner in 'C' class.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**There were certain political and R.S.S. prisoners in Hissar who were in 'C' class. May I know how much time has elapsed when the classification of all such prisoners was changed?

**Minister :—**There is no such prisoner in 'C' class. If the hon. Member wants information about any individual prisoner, he may give notice.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**Was it as a result of hunger strike that they were placed in 'B' class?

**Minister :—**No. The Government has not conceded any of their demands for fear of a hunger strike.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**May I know whether this change of classification was made before or after a notice of hunger strike was given by the prisoners?

**Minister :—**I have no information of any notice of hunger strike.

**Shri Virendra :—**Has any machinery been set up to review the cases of these prisoners?

**Minister :—**Machinery has been set up for that purpose. I may, however, tell the hon. member that his question does not arise out of the question that has been replied to.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :—**May I ask if Sardar Natha Singh and Shri Krishan are in 'C' classes in the Ferozepore Jail?

**Minister :—**I require notice for that.

#### COMMUNIST PRISONERS DETAINED IN FEROZEPORE CANTONMENT POLICE LOCK-UP

**\*699. Shri Prabodh Chandra :—**Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether there are any communist prisoners detained in the Ferozepore Cantt. Police Lock-Up, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether they have made any representation to the Government against their maltreatment;
- (c) what steps, if any, the Government has taken to redress their grievances?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Minister sure of his reply ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot challenge the reply given by a Minister.

**Minister :** The hon. Member may rest assured that the reply is perfectly correct.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS INVOLVED  
IN R.S.S. SATYAGRAHA

**\*700. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether any Government servants were involved in the R.S.S. Satyagraha, if so, what action has been taken against them?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

Part I: Yes.

Part II: Besides suitable legal action, instructions were issued to heads of departments to suspend and deal departmentally with such Government servants.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if any officer has been punished because of his having connections with the R.S.S. ?

**Minister :** Yes. If the hon. Member is interested in details, he might give notice and I shall supply him the information that he desires.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any officer been suspended ?

**Minister :** Yes, and in many cases their services have been terminated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Who are they ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member will appreciate that it is very difficult to reply to this question straightaway. If he gives notice, the required information will be supplied.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the number of such officers ?

**Minister :** I will not hazard a guess.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are they 10, 20, 50 ? Any approximate number ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to say that. The hon. Member may give notice if he is interested in the matter.

ARRESTS MADE DURING R. S. S. SATYAGRAHA  
IN THE PROVINCE

**761 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of persons arrested during R. S. S. Satyagraha in the Province ?
- (b) The number of such of them who apologised ;
- (c) Whether there are any such persons who have not been released even after their apologising, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) Whether the Government propose to release the remaining R. S. S. prisoners in view of the unconditional withdrawal of the R. S. S. Satyagraha ?.

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 3524 ;
- (b) 172
- (c) No. However the apology of one person is under consideration.
- (d) No ;

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What machinery considers an apology ?

**Minister :—**Government's own machinery.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is an apology taken on its face value or is there any elaborate process to examine it ?

**Minister :—**We do not take apologies on their face value. Whether or not an apology is genuine is a matter to be considered.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Is the fine returned on tendering an apology ?

**Minister :—**No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any person been released by the Government of its own accord ?

**Minister :—**Students have been released.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the Government aware of the fact that R. S. S. activities have been attributed to some persons for political reasons only ?

**Minister :** No. The hon. Member's information is incorrect.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has a representation been received by the Government that several responsible persons of Rohtak district were apprehended on account of political "ranjash" only ?

**Minister :** I do not remember to have received any such representation.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Did Chaudhri Suraj Mal, M. L. A. not inform the Hon. Minister that a number of respectable men of Rohtak district were arrested on the false plea that they were connected with R. S. S.

**Minister :-** Let Chaudhri Suraj Mal ask that question himself, *(Laughter)*.

GRANT OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE FOR THE DEPENDENTS  
OF COMMUNIST DETENUS

702. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of applications received by the Government from the dependents of the Communist detenus for the grant of family allowance ;
- (b) The number of families of the Communist detenus that have been granted family allowance so far ;
- (c) What are the amounts granted in each case and the criterion for the amounts fixed ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**

- (a) 71.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Does not arise

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know how long it will take to decide the fate of those applications ?

**Minister :** It is rather difficult to give the exact time.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Approximately two, three or four months ?

**Minister :** May be much earlier than the hon. member thinks.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In October last, the Hon. Minister stated that the matter would be decided as early as possible. Today also he has repeated the same thing.

**Minister :** It is only today that I have said so. I never said that in October last.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon. Minister tell how much allowance will be allowed to each Communist's family ?



**Minister :** I have nothing to add to the reply that I have given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is that reply ?

**Minister :** I am not expected to repeat what I have already stated.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has the Government received representations in which it has been stated that the dependents have nothing to eat ? Has one particular case where the wife of a Communist is suffering from T. B. come to the notice of the Government ?

**Minister :** I am not surprised that in representations for maintenance allowance very dismal pictures are painted. It is quite normal. But before a decision is taken, Government has to see that the statements made in the representations are corroborated.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What is the machinery to have the statements corroborated ?

**Minister :** The district authorities, the C. I. D. and similar other sources.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know the minimum as well as the maximum allowance that is sanctioned for each family.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

### ENCROACHMENTS OF VILLAGE ROADS AND THOROUGHFARES

**706. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state what steps has the Government taken through its Revenue Agency to remove encroachments on the village Kacha roads and thoroughfares so reserved in revenue records ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

It is the duty of village Headmen and the Patwaris to report cases of encroachment on village Kacha roads and thoroughfares. Action to remove encroachments on village roads is taken under section 150 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act. Considerable success has been achieved as a result of action both legal and executive, but Government is contemplating to assume more powers for effective enforcement of this policy to remove unauthorised encroachments.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister say whether the Government has received a large number of complaints from the Patwaris about the unauthorised encroachments on the village kachha roads ?

**Minister:** Yes, there are quite a number of such complaints received from the Patwaris and village Headmen.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What action has been taken on those complaints ?

**Minister :** I have said in my reply that the action we can possibly take is under section 150 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act. I do not propose to explain the procedure under the said section, but whatever procedure is laid down will be followed and action taken according to it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government sure that the places in the province where the encroachments have taken place are not very many ?

**Minister:** It is for this very reason that I have hinted in my reply that to remove these encroachments Government is contemplating to assume more powers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How long will it take to remove these encroachments on the village roads ?

**Minister:** You will appreciate that the procedure to be adopted to remove these encroachments will take some time. When people have to be dispossessed of some land there must be thorough enquiry to see that certain people are not unnecessarily harassed. The Government is actually contemplating to assume power by virtue of which they will be able to take action more effectively and quickly also.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will it be possible to remove all the encroachments on the village roads within one year ?

**Minister :** We will be very lucky if we are able to clear the encroachments within one year.

# HARASSMENT OF MR. GURMUKH SINGH OF JHANG MAGHIANA BY THE POLICE OF JULLUNDUR

**\*749. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government requested the West Punjab Government to supply it with the Police records of political workers in the undivided Punjab;
- (b) whether the request has been complied with;

- (c) whether it is a fact that on the basis of those records, Mr. Gurmukh Singh of Jhang Maghiana, and a member of the East Punjab Provincial Congress Committee is being harassed by the Jullundur Police from time to time;
- (d) whether the Government has received any representation from Mr. Gurmukh Singh that he is being unnecessarily harassed by the Police;
- (e) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.
- (e) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Has the Government received any representation in which it is stated that Mr. Gurmukh Singh is being harassed by the C.I.D.?

**Minister:** I have stated in my reply that Mr. Gurmukh Singh is not being harassed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Has any application or representation been received from Mr. Gurmukh Singh alleging that he is being harassed by the Police?

**Minister:** This is covered by the reply that I have given.

#### DEMAND OF SURETY FOR STARTING NEWSPAPER FROM PANDIT MEHAR CHAND

**750. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pandit Mehar Chand, editor, the Arya Vir Lahore applied for a declaration for a weekly to be started at Jullundur City;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a surety of Rs. 1,000/ was demanded from him;
- (c) whether the surety has been demanded on the basis of old police records received from Pakistan;
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above is in the negative, the other causes on the basis of which the above referred to surety is demanded?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes, to the District Magistrate.
- (b) Yes, by the District Magistrate.
- (c) No.
- (d) Security was demanded on the basis of objectionable activities of the applicant as editor-printer-publisher of the Arya Vir at Lahore.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The Hon. Minister has said in his reply that security was demanded on the basis of objectionable activities of Pandit Mehar Chand, but may I ask whether these activities were considered to be objectionable from the records of Pakistan or from the records here ?

**Minister :** We cannot sit as a court to judge these things here but I am giving this information to the hon. lady member that the security was demanded on the basis of objectionable activities of the applicant.

#### CULTIVABLE AREA OF LAND LEFT BY MUSLIMS IN EAST PUNJAB

**\*605. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) The total cultivable area of land left by the Muslims in East Punjab.
- (b) How much of this area was brought under cultivation during Kharif 1948 and Rabi 1949.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh.**

- (a) 32,17,607 acres.
- (b) Information is not available as during Kharif, 1948 no separate Girdawari for evacuee lands was carried out. The Girdawari for Rabi, 1949 has yet to commence.

#### GRANT OF LOANS TO REFUGEES

**647. Shri Virendra :** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the amount of loans sanctioned so far by the East Punjab Government to the refugees, agriculturists, students and small industrial concerns respectively ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh.**

Rs. 13,47,472/- has been given as loans to refugee students upto 31-1-49.

2. Upto that date Rs. 1,08,18,215/- has been given to refugees as loans and Rs. 10,28,979/- as free grants for rehabilitating themselves in business, industry or in profession under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act 1948.

#### LAND ALLOTTED TO REFUGEES REMAINING UNCULTIVATED

**\*686. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) Area of agricultural land allotted to refugees that remained uncultivated and unsown in Kharif, 1948.
- (b) The reasons for this area of land having remained uncultivated.
- (c) What steps, if any, did the Government take to get such land cultivated.
- (d) What action if any do the Government intend to take to ensure that every bit of cultivable land is brought under the plough.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh.**

- (a) Information is not available as no separate girdawari was carried out for evacuee lands.
- (b) To the extent that evacuee land was not sown in Kharif 1948, the main reason was late movement from Camps into villages.
- (c) Refugee allottees are given loans for the purchase of fodder, seed, food, implements and bullocks and other assistance in order to enable them to cultivate their lands.
- (d) Any area not taken up by refugees has been leased out, Government hope shortly to replace temporary allotments by quasi-permanent allotment.

#### ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN HARYANA DISTRICT

**\*562. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct any new roads in the Haryana districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal during the year 1948-49;
- (b) the roads that were constructed during the last financial years?
- (c) the development programme, if any, of road construction in the Haryana districts for the next five years ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) Yes. Presumably the year meant by the hon. Member is 1949-50.
- (b) The work on the following roads was in progress in the last financial year :
  - (i) Gohana-Panipat.
  - (ii) Kharkhauda Delhi Border.
  - (iii) Shahbad Barara Road.
  - (iv) Widening Grand Trunk Road.
  - (v) Village road from G. T. Road to Baghan in Rohtak Distt.
- (c) The programme is under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister tell the House if any road has been completed so far?

**Minister :** The work has been started and it will take some time before any results are achieved.

#### MOTOR LORRIES AND MOTOR TRUCKS PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT

**\*603. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any motor lorries and motor trucks were purchased by the Government during 1948-49;
- (b) the total number and the cost thereof;
- (c) when were these received by the Government;
- (d) whether it is a fact that these trucks and lorries remained standing outside the Jullundur Secretariat building during the last rainy season for weeks together without any protection;
- (e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative the reasons for making no arrangements to protect them from rain and sun.
- (f) whether it is a fact that these have since been disposed of; if so, how and at what price?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 323 chassis were purchased through the Government of India during the year 1948-1949. The approximate cost of these chassis is Rs. 25,00,000/-



- (c) These 323 chassis have been received in different lots commencing from 20-4-48 up to date.
- (d) Chassis which were not taken over by various departments to whom they were allotted remained standing in the Jullundur Secretariat compound. Arrangements, for the protection of batteries and tyres and to guard against pilferage of parts, were made by the department as a result of which no loss or damage has been reported so far.
- (e) Arrangements for constructing sheds are in hand.
- (f) 118 chassis out of these have been allotted to various government departments or local bodies and the rest are being or will be utilised for the Government bus services. Those chassis were sold at what they cost us.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether any estimates were given by the different departments before the order for these chassis was placed or the order was placed at random ?

**Minister :** The order was placed after calculating the requirements and not at random.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** I want to know if the different departments were consulted before placing the order.

**Minister :** All concerned except of course some M.L.As from the West Punjab, were consulted.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** In view of the fact that a number of vehicles remained lying inside the Jullundur Secretariat compound was any explanation asked from the departments who had not taken over the chassis ?

**Minister :** No explanation was needed.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Minister has said that the departments had given in their demands to the Government. If it was so why did not those departments take delivery of the chassis ? Does it not constitute a negligence on their part ?

**Minister :** Most of the chassis had been taken over by the departments who needed them, only a few remained undistributed and they will be used for the Government bus services.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Was it known at the time of giving orders for the chassis that the Government would be running bus services of their own ?

**Minister :** At that time the thing uppermost in the mind of the Government was how to get the refugees out of their difficulties.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** At the time when these orders were placed all the refugees had come over to this side of the border.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, I want a reply to my question.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot force the hon. Minister. He has to accept whatever reply the hon. Minister gives.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How long did these lorries remain without sheds ?

**Minister :** These came in at different times; so it is not possible to tell as to how long a particular chassis remained without a shed.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if the hon. Minister has made enquiries about the number of lorries which have been spoiled by remaining without a shelter ?

**Minister :** No lorries have been spoiled.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any individual represented that certain lorries are lying useless and those may be sold to him ?

#### VALUE OF FURNITURE SUPPLIED IN THE MINISTERS' RESIDENCES

**\*606. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the total value of furniture supplied in each of the residential houses occupied by the hon. Ministers up till 31-3-1948 at Simla ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** The hon. Member may kindly refer to the answer given to his starred question No. 477, part (a) on 26th October, 1948.

#### NEW CAPITAL FOR THE EAST PUNJAB

**\*645 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps the Government have taken so far to build the new Capital of the East Punjab ?

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**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** Since the announcement of the proposed site for the New Capital for the East Punjab near Chandigarh in March last year the preliminary work in connection with the undertaking of this scheme was taken in hand. Before any planning could be undertaken the topographical survey of the site was necessary which was entrusted to the Survey Department of the Government of India and they were asked to expedite it by making aerial survey of the area. The plans have recently been completed by them. In the meantime road and rail communications of the Capital have been carefully studied and planned. Water supply and drainage problems have been studied in detail and the planning of the essential materials required for the undertaking of the Capital is under investigation.

2. Rough forecasts of the financial implications of the scheme have been studied in detail and ways and means to finance the Capital have been worked out.

3. Arrangements are also being made for the planning of the town for which it is intended to import planners from outside. Various countries have been contacted and as soon as arrangements with regard to the finances required for the Capital are completed, steps will be taken to undertake the detailed planning.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know if the Government has acquired the land required for building the proposed new Capital ?

**Premier :** Not yet.

**Shri Virendra :** When do the Government expect to acquire it ?

**Premier :** When the plans are ready, acquisition of land will be taken into hand.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know when will the plans be ready ?

**Premier :** After the appointment of the Planner.

**Shri Virendra :** When is the Planner expected ?

**Premier :** I cannot tell exactly when ?

**Shri Virendra :** What are the financial implications of the scheme for building the New Capital ?

**Premier :** I cannot disclose them. They are confidential.

**Shri Virendra :** Why is the Government so anxious to import a planner from outside ? Is there no planner available in India ?

**Premier :** Planners from India will also be consulted in the matter

**Shri Virendra :** Then where is the necessity of importing a foreign planner ?

**Premier :** We want to take the benefit of advice of a planner from outside as well.

**Shri Virendra :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that importing of a planner from outside will involve a heavy expenditure ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member should know that we have got to incur expenditure on planning of new schemes, particularly when planning of New Capital is to be taken in hand.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know if it is under the contemplation of the Government to abandon the proposed site of the New Capital and build it at some other place ?

**Premier :** No, Sir.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that there prevails a great discontentment among the people from whom land is to be acquired and there is a likelihood of an agitation being started by them ?

**Premier :** Wherever we have to build, land shall have to be acquired and nobody would be glad to part with his land. We know the people who intend to start the agitation and we are aware of those who instigate the people to agitate.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether in view of the dangerous situation that is likely to arise out of the acquisition of land, Government intend to change the site of the Capital?

**Premier :** I have nothing to add to what I have already replied on the point.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the hon. Premier find it convenient to disclose the programme connected with the establishment of the Capital, namely, target dates for the preparation of plans, for taking over the possession of the new site and also by which plots and other material will be made available to the various applicants.

**Premier :** I thank the hon. Member for this valuable suggestion. I will look into the matter.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I am afraid I have not made any suggestion. I have said if it will be convenient for the hon. Premier to let me know the target dates.....

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** There is an implied suggestion in the hon. Member's question, namely, target dates to be fixed.

**Premier :** I have already thanked the hon. Member for his suggestion and I have promised to look into the matter.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Do I take it then that so far no target dates have been fixed ?

**Premier :** This is so because we have no planner with us. As regards his suggestion, I shall try to see that target dates are fixed. But we will be in a position to do so only after we have considered the report of the planner in this connection.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Then will it be possible for the hon. Premier to let me know the time by which the site for the first factory will be made available in the new Capital site ?

**Premier :** As soon as the plans are ready, I shall let the hon. Member know about it.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I wanted to know this information so that it should be of help to the people who are interested in industry to form an idea as to when they will be able to set up factories there.

**Premier :** The suggestion is really useful and I shall try to place the programme before the House when it is ready.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Premier aware that last month the P.W.D. called tenders for the supply of five crores of bricks ? May I know why, when the plans for the construction of the Capital are not ready, tenders for bricks were called ? Where was the necessity for this before planning ?

**Premier :** The necessity is there. The hon. Member should know that when any construction scheme is to be taken in hand, arrangements for the collection of materials are made beforehand.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know how much expenditure has been incurred so far on the surveying operations of the proposed Capital ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I will collect the information.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know if the East Punjab Government requested the Government of India for grant of financial help for this purpose ?

**Premier :** All the correspondence 'that has taken place' on this subject with the Government of India is confidential, since no decisions have so far been arrived at.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the hon. Minister please inform us as to when he expects to start construction of the proposed administrative town ?

**Premier :** I have already stated that the hon. Member's suggestion has been noted and when the plans are ready, the same will be placed before the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Next question, please.

### THE BHAKRA DAM PROJECT AND THE NANGAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

**\*646 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the progress that has been made so far in respect of the Bhakra Dam Project and the Nangal Hydro-Electric Project ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** The progress so far made in the construction of Bhakra Dam and Nangal Hydro-Electric Projects is briefly as follows :

**Communications :** The Railway Line from Rupar to Nangal was completed and open to passenger traffic on the 13th October, 1948. A good length of the road from Rupar to Nangal has been completed. About 75 per cent of the formation earthwork on Railway Line from Nangal to Bhakra has been completed. The 1100 feet long tunnel on this line is expected to be completed very soon. About 5 miles of the road from Nangal to Bhakra has been tarred and completed.

**Diversion Works :** At Bhakra total of 2408 feet of the pilot heading of Left Diversion Tunnel has been completed. The corresponding progress on the Right Diversion Tunnel is 1835 feet out of a total length of 2495 feet.

The construction of buildings at Bhakra and Nangal Townships is proceeding at a rapid pace. Since it has now been decided to construct a higher dam with Reservoir R.L. of 1675 feet, revised designs and specifications are under preparation in consultation with International Engineering Co., Denver, U.S.A. and Dr. J. L. Savage, Consulting Engineer to Government of India.



**Nangal Canal and Power Houses :** Work will be shortly completed in 16 out of 28 bays of the dam. One third of excavation work on Nangal Hydel Channel has been completed. Construction of the buildings and excavation of Power House No. 1 is well in hand.

**Route Surveys of Transmission Line :** This has been completed on the following sections:

1. Rupar-Ambala
2. Rupar-Samrala.
3. Rupar-Anandpur.
4. Nangal Power House No. I to Power House No. II and from Nangal to Anandpur.
5. Ambala-Kalka.
6. Pipli-Abdullahpur.
7. Pipli-Indri.
8. Karnal-Indri.
9. Panipat-Safidon.

**Sub-Station sites :** Sub-station sites for grid sub-stations at the following places have been selected and land acquisition proceedings are in execution :

Panipat, Muktsar, Indri Ambala, Moga, Sonapat, Jagraon, Pipli, Khanna and Abdullahpur.

Orders for the power house machinery and equipment have recently been placed with an American firm. Orders for Transformers and Switchgear for Ambala and Panipat sub-stations have since been placed and for the remaining sub-stations, orders will be placed very shortly. Tenders for Transmission Line Material e.g., insulators, conductors, steel ground wire, steel towers etc., have been received and scrutinized and orders will be placed very shortly.

**Bhakra Main Line :** Work on Bhakra Main Line has also been started after approval of the alignment, and about 30 lacs c.ft excavation has been done so far. Work of construction of office and residential buildings for Bhakra Line Main Circle at Patiala, is also progressing satisfactorily.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know if any map has been prepared according to which water from the Bhakra Dam will be distributed ?

**Minister :** I have already touched that point. No map has yet been finalised.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the hon. Minister let the House know whether any tenders for the supply of machinery etc., were received from a British firm ?

**Minister :** Yes. Tenders from a British firm were also received.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Were those tenders lower than those that have been accepted ?

**Minister :** I do not remember the details but I can assure the House that every aspect of the tenders, i.e., the ability of the firm to deliver the goods, the period within which the delivery would be made etc., were taken into consideration and after taking all these factors into consideration, orders were placed with the firm which were most favourable.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know whether the price quoted by the British firm was definitely lower than that quoted by the American firm ?

**Minister :** I am afraid the hon. Member is not entitled to make that assumption. I now forget the details. It may be that the price quoted by the British firm was slightly lower, but the delivery period was such that if that aspect was taken into account, the over-all cost would have been higher.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Can the hon. Member give some idea of difference of time within which the two firms promised to deliver the goods?

**Minister :** I cannot give the details off hand. If, however, hon. Member is interested, he might give notice and I will place the entire material at his disposal.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Who is the final authority to take a decision for accepting the tenders ?

**Minister :** The statutory responsibility rests with the Chief Engineer but before tenders are finally accepted, they are scrutinised by a Cabinet sub-committee consisting of the hon. Premier and three Ministers.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the Government attach more importance to the period of delivery than to the cost ?

**Minister :** Period of delivery is definitely of very great importance because if we get the material in time, it is more advantageous. I may

also inform the hon. Member that we are committed to supply power to Delhi and unless we complete the whole thing within a certain time, we are apt to lose the sale of a huge load which would be detrimental to the interests of the province.

**Sardar Tara Singh :** Will Ferozepore district also get water from the Bhakra Dam ?

**Minister :** As the final irrigation plan has not been finalised, I am not in a position to say anything one way or the other.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it a fact that the time which the British firm would have taken to deliver the machinery would have been well within the period in which we would complete our part of the work in India ?

**Minister :** This is the grievance which the British manufacturers have against us. The hon. Member may rest assured that we were not swayed by any feeling of helping either the British or the American firm. We had absolutely no such intention. We were very keen that we should get the material within a certain time so as to enable ourselves to discharge our commitments to Delhi and also our unwritten and unexpressed commitments to our refugee brethren for their industrial rehabilitation. The time factor is of very great importance because the sooner we get the power, the better would it be for the province.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I am thankful to the hon. Minister for his sympathies towards us. But the question remains whether the British firm would also have delivered the goods within time within which we would complete our part of the work ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member has probably not understood me. I assure him that we will be able to complete our work in time to take full advantage of the earlier delivery which has been promised to us by the American firm.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mall :** The hon. Minister is never serious and always tries to brush aside the real point at issue. The hon. Minister has stated that the map has not yet been finalised. Is he in a position to say whether the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon will get any water ?

**Minister :** The fears entertained by my hon. friend—I say it with all seriousness—have always been ill-founded. I may inform him that

(Minister)

the major part of water from this project will go to the areas mentioned by him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that his Chief Engineer in a letter wrote to an M.L.A. that water from the Bhakra Dam would go to Jullundur Division and Patiala State and any water left would be made available to Bikaner State ?

**Minister :** If any hon. Member has by putting awkward question forced the Chief Engineer to give such a reply, I cannot help. As I have already stated no final plan in regard to the distribution of water from the Bhakra Scheme has yet been decided upon.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It is the habit of your Department to give such replies.

**Minister :** M.L.As by their own habits force my Department to make such replies. (*Laughter*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If no plan has yet been finalised, how is it that the Ministers in their speeches have often repeated that water from the Bhakra would be supplied to Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal and Gurgaon districts ?

**Minister :** When I say that maps have not yet been finalised, I mean that it is not possible for me to say whether a particular village in Rohtak or Hissar district will get any water or not. When, however, I say that primarily that part of the province will be benefitted by this scheme, this is a fact which we have proclaimed and I do not deny. As to the final details, it is a matter to be decided by three Governments, i.e., East Punjab, Patiala and Bikaner and which also depends upon the height of the Dam, its potentiality of storage etc., and unless all these things are known it will be very wrong to say anything one way or the other. Moreover, this question can be discussed when the Irrigation demand comes before the House.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What about the post-war plans regarding the supply of water from the Bhakra ?

**Minister :** The tracts for which my hon. Friend has so much solicitude, will be better off as a result of new plans as compared to the former plans which are hovering over his mind.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Can we expect that from you ?

**Minister :** You doubt us for nothing.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** In the matter of allotment of evacuee industrial establishments, we were given to understand that the allotment was made to the highest tenderer only so that there may be no blot on the Government. Now is it not a blot on the Government that they have accepted the higher tenders of an American firm ?

**Minister :** I take strong exception to that suggestion. We thoroughly scrutinised the details of all the tenders. We took the advantage of the highest technical advice that was available in India. We consulted the electrical experts of the Government of India. We pooled whatever wisdom we could get in the country, financial and other aspects were fully safeguarded. I can confidently say that the decision that has been taken is to the best interests of the province. (*Hear, hear*)

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Am I to conclude that there was not one standard set up for deciding these tenders ?

**Minister :** The only standard before us was that we should spend the least amount and get the power quickest.

**Premier :** The object was to get the best machinery for the lowest cost.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Bhakra and Nangal schemes were originally thought of for benefitting the Haryanan prant ?

**Premier :** Those who thought of it could do nothing for one generation but in spite of whatever Chaudhri Suraj Mal may think of the Unionist Government this Government has done a lot to improve the Bhakra Dam scheme.

**Mr. Speaker :** Next question.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I want to ask a supplementary question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** Too many questions have already been asked. Next question please.

#### PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE SOWAN NADI

**\*683. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

(Pandit Mohan Lal Datta)

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that serious loss of life and property takes place every year on the crossing over the Sowam Nadi on the Hoshiarpur-Una Road ;
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Government has since long sanctioned the construction of a bridge over the said Nadi, if so, the reasons for not taking up the work in hand so far ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) The Government is not aware of serious loss of life and property in Sowam Nadi on the Hoshiarpur-Una Road every year. A few careless people while crossing the stream in spate may have endangered their lives.
- (b) A scheme for the construction of the bridge is being prepared. This has been included in the Post-War Road Programme. This bridge can not be built very early on account of shortage of materials and scarcity of funds.

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#### TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, KALKA

**\*751. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether he is aware of the fact that three transport workers of Kalka, on behalf of Kalka Transport Workers Union, including Mistri Hari Chand, the General Secretary of the Union, went on hunger-strike on 27th December, 1948 to get the demands of the transport workers accepted;
- (b) what were their demands;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that an agreement was reached on the 30th December, 1948 which was duly signed by the representatives of the Transport Workers Union, Kalka, the Himalya Transport Syndicate, Kalka, and the Simla Hills Transport Service;
- (d) Whether it was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister by deputation of the Transport Workers Union, that met him on the 3rd January, 1949 and also through a written Memorandum submitted by the deputation, that the Simla Hills Transport Service, Kalka, one of the parties to the Agreement was syste-



matically violating the agreement and S. Dalip Singh, the Managing Director of the Company had issued several orders that were quite contrary to the letter as well as the spirit of the agreement signed by the representatives of the said Company;

- (e) Whether it is also a fact that the representatives of the Union, orally as well as through their memorandum, brought to the notice of the hon. Minister, the activities of the Managing Director of Simla Hills Transport Service were leading to a situation in which the workers would be forced to go on strike to safeguard their proper interests and to enforce the implementation of written agreement mutually arrived at by the parties;
- (f) Whether it is also a fact that the representatives of the Union referred to above asked the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter;
- (g) What action if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) There were about 20 demands mainly about the revision of pay and allowances, Insurance, Provident Fund, Leave and other conditions of service of the employees.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes. Some complaints were made that the Simla Hills Transport Service were violating the terms of agreement.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) A meeting of the representatives of the employees and the 2 major Transport Companies was called by the Government. The parties by mutual agreement appointed Shri Raj Narain, Labour Officer, East Punjab, as sole arbitrator to reconsider all the demands of parties and give an award. His award was expected by the end of February 1949; but has been delayed by his illness. Meanwhile, the terms of the agreement arrived at on the 30th December 1948 are being carried out.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In spite of what the hon. minister has said in his reply the demands of the workers have not been satisfied, and there is a great dissatisfaction amongst the workers, does the hon. Minister know of it ?

**Minister :** The agreement of the 30th September, 1948, is being carried out. It has not come to the notice of the Government that there is any dissatisfaction amongst the workers.

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#### RECLAMATION OF WASTE LANDS IN UNA TAHSIL

**\*685. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a very big Cho named Sowam Nadi in Una Tahsil has turned lacs of acres of agricultural lands into waste land in Una Tahsil of Hoshiarpur District ;
- (b) the special measures, if any, which the Government propose to take to reclaim these waste lands and to prevent this Cho from damaging adjacent cultivated lands ;
- (c) the measures, if any, proposed by the Cho Committee recently constituted by the Government for the purpose ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang):**

- (a) Government are fully aware of the damage being done by the Sowam Nadi.
- (b) A large part of the catchment area of the Sowam Nadi has been closed to grazing, which is the first essential step towards control of torrents, as the flood peaks can only be reduced and the stream deprived of its heavy load of sand by producing a better plant cover on the catchment area.
- (c) The Cho Committee has submitted certain proposals which are under the consideration of Government.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How long ago did the committee mentioned by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary submit its suggestions ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Only 15 days ago.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is he giving this reply from memory or has he anything on record ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I know it because I am a Parliamentary Secretary (*Laughter*).

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## APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY TO DISTRICT BOARD, ROHTAK

**\*564. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the District Board, Rohtak has unanimously recommended the name of its senior-most Head Clerk for his appointment as Secretary to the Board ;
- (b) whether the Government has accepted the proposal, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Government have rejected the proposal of District Board, Rohtak in the interest of displaced local body employees from West Punjab whose rehabilitation must receive first priority.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the District Board, Rohtak unanimously recommended the name of the Head Clerk for the post of the Secretary ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why was the request rejected ?

**Minister :** Reply to this question has been given by the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that a refugee who is employed with the District Board Hoshiarpur has been selected by the Government for the post ?

**Minister :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the hon. Minister know that he issues orders which cannot be carried out ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the hon. Minister know that the man who is to be made Secretary of the District Board, Rohtak does not want to come to Rohtak.

**Minister :** Sir, I have stated the reasons in the original reply for not accepting the resolution of the District Board, Rohtak, any further question out of this does not arise.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is for me to decide.

**Minister :** My position is that it does not arise and therefore he should not ask such questions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I again ask from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the refugee who has been appointed as the Secretary of the District Board, Rohtak does not want to take up that post.

**Minister :** I do not know, I require notice. The matter has not come up to me but I understand from the hon. Member that the District Board has again made a request that the appointment of the Head Clerk may be approved.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if all the Secretaries and Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees are to be appointed from the displaced refugees ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is too general a question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if there is scope in the instructions given by the Government for appointments by promotion ?

**Minister :** Yes; there is scope for appointments by promotion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If there is scope for appointments by promotion why has this concession not been given to the District Board, Rohtak ?

**Minister :** That extraordinary power which the Government has appropriated to itself will, generally speaking, be used in cases where competent refugees are not available.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was the competent refugee who has been appointed Secretary of the District Board, Rohtak, consulted before the appointment was offered to him ?

**Minister :** The Government made the appointment after the resolution of the District Board, Rohtak was passed. But I am not aware of the fact whether the gentleman has accepted the post or not.

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#### RATES OF TEMPORARY INCREASE IN PENSIONS

**\*674. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rates of temporary increase in the pensions of the Government Pensioners have been less up till now than those for the Dearness Allowance to the present Government Employees;

- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this disparity;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to remove this disparity ?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) There has been disparity ever since the dearness allowance was sanctioned and it still continues. A prudent pensioner is supposed to have put by something for the rainy day while he was in service. It has to be appreciated that while Government have their responsibility for the welfare of its employees primarily with a view to preserving administrative efficiency, a similar consideration can hardly be applied to pensioners.
- (c) The case of our Refugee pensioners has been considered with all the sympathy that it deserved, as their case was doubly pathetic since most of them had suffered as a consequence of the partition and the turmoil through which this province had passed. East Punjab Government, however, feel that any assistance these Refugees can hope for must come from the general scheme of Refugee assistance, and it would not be appropriate to isolate the case of Refugee pensioners for concessions which are not extended to the other Refugees. Moreover as the attention of the Government is at present directed to counteracting persistent inflationary tendencies they considered it imperative to avoid adding any more burden to their finances. It will also be appreciated that in the absence of any scheme of assistance to pensioners generally by the Government of India, East Punjab Government cannot take a unilateral action, more particularly when they depend on the Centre for a subvention to balance their ordinary revenue expenditure.

**Chaudhri Sher Singh :** On a point of order, Sir, can a bachelor be permitted to give reply to a question put by a lady Member ?

(Voices: This is bad taste.)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government received a representation from the pensioners for an increase in their pensions ? If so what steps did the Government take to meet their demand ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** Yes, a representation was received. A reply to that effect has already been given in part (a) of the original question.

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PRINTING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

**\*697. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the work of printing of electoral rolls has been given to a press or presses;
- (b) whether any tenders were called for the purpose, if not, why not ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no press in the East Punjab has been entrusted with this work, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the expected cost of the work ;
- (e) how the rates offered for the job compare with those prevalent in the market ;
- (f) whether the Government has received any complaints in this behalf ?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) Yes, to several presses.
- (b) Yes, tenders were invited.
- (c) Yes, no press in East Punjab has been entrusted with this work, though the firms entrusted with it are refugee firms from the Punjab. In the interest of economy it was desirable to get the printing done at one place, which was not possible in East Punjab or at a place other than Delhi.
- (d) About Rupees twelve lakhs.
- (e) A flat rate of Rs. 5/14 per page was fixed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, East Punjab. This was lower than the rates quoted by the presses in Delhi and East Punjab.
- (f) Yes, from some disgruntled firms. They were gone into and found to be unjustified.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if any representation has been received by the Government from certain firms that the rates on which work has been given to others are higher than the prevailing rates ?

**Premier :** Yes, but the work has been given on rates lower than those quoted by them.



**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** On a point of privilege. The point of order raised by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Chaudhri Sher Singh, is objectionable. I request that he should withdraw it and tender an apology to the hon. Lady member.

**Mr. Speaker :** What the Parliamentary Secretary said was not proper. He should withdraw the words.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :** Sir, I withdraw those words.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, I insist that he should offer an unqualified apology to the hon. Lady member.

**Mr. Speaker :** He has withdrawn the words and that is sufficient.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Premier please let us know whether it is a fact that the persons to whom the work of printing of electoral rolls has been entrusted, do not possess litho-presses.

**Premier :** The firms who have been given this work, possess such presses.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any complaint reached the hon. Premier that certain persons who have been entrusted with this printing work do not possess their own printing presses and they enjoy middle-man's profit ?

**Premier :** Such complaints did come. But the rates on which the work has been given are lower as compared with others.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that Mr. Luthra himself went to Delhi to distribute this work, and that he did not entrust this work to those who had offered tenders ?

**Premier :** Those who had offered tenders, also got the work.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether it is a fact that certain parties who had not submitted any tenders, also got this work ?

**Premier :** Rates quoted by them were lower than those who gave tenders.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Do I take it that Mr. Luthra distributed the work as he pleased to anybody irrespective of the fact that they had given any tenders ?

**Premier :** The main criterion was good work to be done in time at lower rates. All those who came up to this standard got the work.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that Mr. Luthra gave a statement that those parties will not be given this work, who were connected with certain newspapers ?

**Premier :** If the hon. member gives notice, I will make enquiries.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Is the hon. Premier aware that these parties were not given this work due to certain ulterior motives ?

**Premier :** No. The fact is that the rates quoted by them were very high and so work could not be entrusted to them.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** May I know how many times Mr. Luthra went to Delhi for purposes of distributing this work and what amount of expenditure did the Government incur on his travelling ?

**Premier:** I require notice for this.

#### PANCHAYATS IN AMBALA DIVISION

**\*707. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he has inspected the work of any of the Panchayats in the Ambala Division ;
- (b) whether the Panchayats in this Division have taken any substantial steps towards the improvement of village sanitation, roads and ponds ;
- (c) what action, if any, does Government propose to take for stopping the daily increasing deterioration in sanitary conditions of the rural areas and for improving the rotten condition of village roads ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) It is not clear what the hon. Member means by 'inspected' the work of Panchayats.

The Finance Minister met Panchayat Officers and Assistant Panchayat Officers of the East Punjab including that of Ambala Division in a conference in Ambala on the 16th January, 1949. In this connection, the Minister also met certain representatives of the Panchayat Unions in Ambala on the said date and acquainted himself with their grievances.

- (b) Within the limits of the funds at their disposal, Panchayats have made substantial improvement of village sanitation, roads and ponds. They have spent thousands of rupees on pavement of

streets, removal of encroachments, construction of drains, improvement of wells, prevention of spread of disease and on general sanitation.

- (c) Improvement of sanitary conditions and the condition of village roads of rural areas is hampered by lack of funds with the Panchayats as well as the District Boards. Government is considering means of improving the finances of the Panchayats and giving financial aid to District Boards.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** May I know what particular improvements have been effected by the Panchayats in the matter of sanitation ponds, etc ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government is in a position to give us facts and figures about the improvements made by the Panchayats in sanitary conditions of rural areas ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We receive reports about their working on basis of which the reply has been given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary give us an idea about those reports ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice for that.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** I want to know whether the hon. Minister has actually gone to some village and inspected the work of a Panchayat ?

**Hon. Minister For Finance :** I have already stated in the reply that it is not clear what the hon. Member means by inspecting the work of the Panchayats.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### REPRESENTATION AGAINST S.D.O., P.W.D. ELECTRICITY BRANCH

**179. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he received a representation from Shri Harbans Lal of Ludhiana in the month of October, 1948 against the S.D.O., P.W.D., Electricity Branch ;
- (b) whether any enquiry was held against the cases of corruption mentioned in the complaint ; if so the result thereof ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter is being looked into.

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**REPRESENTATION REGARDING SALE OF MUNICIPAL  
LAND IN SONIPAT**

**180. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he received an application from Banwari Lal s/o Neki Ram Mahajan, Sonipat Mandi in the month of November, 1948 concerning the sale of Municipal land; if so, to what result?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Datt.**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The necessary enquiries are being made.

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**PAYMENT OF JAGIR MONEY TO MAZHAR HUSSAIN  
OF SONEPAT**

**181. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Jagir money of one Mazhar Hussain of Sonepat who is still a citizen of the Indian Union deposited in the Treasury of Rohtak has been paid to him; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :**

*First Part.* No.

*Second Part.* The assignee left Sonepat during disturbances in 1947 and his whereabouts are not known. When he applies for payment, his claims will be considered with reference to the terms and conditions on which the Jagir was sanctioned.

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**LOUDSPEAKERS HIRED FOR USE IN JAWAHARNAGAR  
REFUGEE CAMP LUDHIANA**

**182. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that loudspeakers have been taken on hire in Jawaharnagar Refugee Camp, Ludhiana from time to time
- (b) if so, the amount of hire money paid ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the price of loudspeakers used is much less than the money paid as hire.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
  - (b) No bills have yet been paid, but the hire charges, exclusive of the pay of technicians and other maintenance and operation charges, are not likely to exceed Rs. 2/- per set per day.
  - (c) No.
- 

**ILLNESS OF SHRI DILAWAR SINGH, DISTRICT PUBLICITY OFFICER, ROHTAK**

**183. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Shri Dilawar Singh, District Publicity Officer, Rohtak, is on long leave due to serious illness ;
- (b) whether the officer was medically examined when he was appointed to this post.

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Shri Dilawar Singh, District Publicity Officer, Rohtak is on three months' extraordinary leave (leave without pay) on account of ill health.
  - (b) No, as he was appointed against a temporary vacancy?
- 

**APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT**

**184. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of employees recruited in Relief and Rehabilitation Department since August, 1947;
- (b) the number of those who belong to Ferozepur District ?

**The hon. Sardar Pratap Singh :** Detailed information regarding the staff employed in the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation with their names, qualifications, salaries and addresses community-wise has been supplied to the hon. Member in reply to a similar question No. 139, asked by the hon. Member at the last session of the Assembly. The same amount of labour will be involved if the information regarding those belonging to Ferozepur district is now to be collected.

In my opinion the time and labour involved in collecting this type of information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

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APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

**185. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister of Industries be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of employees recruited in the Civil Supplies Department including Foodgrains and Cloth Distribution Departments since August, 1947 ;
- (b) the number of those who belong to the Ferozepur District ?

**The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh.**

- (a) 3280.
- (b) 211.

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APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR AND SUB-INSPECTORS  
IN THE LABOUR AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

**186. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors employed in the Labour and Excise Department since August, 1947 ;
- (b) the number of those who belong to the Ferozepore District ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

Excise Department.

- (a) (i) Excise Inspectors 7. By Promotion from Excise Sub-Inspectors.
- (ii) Excise 19.  
Sub-Inspectors
- (b) Nil.

The information regarding Labour Department is blank.

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APPOINTMENTS OF POLICE OFFICERS IN THE PROVINCE

**187. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents recruited in the Police Department ;
- (b) the number of those who belong to Ferozepore District ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 119 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police (out of which 95 in the Provincial Armed Police), 5 Sub-Inspectors of Police (in the Provincial Armed Police only), 4 Inspectors of Police and 5 Deputy Superintendents of Police upto the 31st December, 1948.
- (b) 8 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police and one Deputy Superintendent of Police.



## APOPOINTMENTS OF E.A.Cs., TEHSILDARS AND PATWARIES

**188. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state ;

- (a) the total number of E.A.Cs., Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars Canugos and Patwaries recruited in the Revenue Department since August, 1947 ;
- (b) the number of those who belong to the Ferozepore district ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

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## DISTRICT GIVING THE BIGGEST AMOUNT OF REVENUE

**189. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the district in East Punjab which gives the biggest amount of Revenue ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh ;** Amritsar.

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## CONSOLIDATION OF LANDS IN FEROZEPURE DISTRICT.

**190. Sardar Rattan Singh ;** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the time by which the work of the consolidation of lands will begin;
- (b) when this work is likely to be completed;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that most of the crime in Ferozepur District arise on account of fragmentations of holdings in the District;
- (d) when does the Government propose to take up the work of consolidation of lands in the Ferozepur District?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh.**

- (a) The consolidation of holdings work is already in hand in several districts but compulsory consolidation under the new East Punjab Holdings (consolidation and prevention of fragmentation) Act, 1948, will begin soon after the quasi-permanent settlement of evacuee rural agricultural land is completed.
- (b) The completion of work depends on the availability of staff and the extent of budgetary provision. The target figure aimed at will be 10 to 15 years for the whole Province.

[Minister for Development]

- (c) There has been no report or incident to show that the crime in Ferozepur District is a direct result of fragmentation of holdings.
- (d) The complete plan for the whole Province is under preparation and until that is finalised the required information cannot be supplied. Efforts will however be made to start the work in Ferozepur district as soon as possible.

#### DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE ON NANGAL-BAKHRA PROJECTS

191. **Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantities of work and the expenditure likely to be spent on Earth works, concrete work, Masonry work and other major items forming the bulk of work in Hydrel Channel, Power houses, Nangal Barrage, Bhakra Bund, Tunnelling work at Bhakra and Main Canals, respectively;
- (b) the total quantities of work done in each of the above mentioned before August 1947;
- (c) the total quantity of work done during the financial years of 1947-48 and 1948-49, respectively; the quantity of work the Department propose to do in coming years, year by year;
- (d) when each of the above referred jobs are likely to be completed.
- (e) total cost estimate for Nangal Bhakra Projects with separate details of costs required for machineries, Supervising Staff, Cement, Tools & Plant, work to be executed through contractors, labour charges and other major items forming the bulk of each of the jobs mentioned in part (a) above separately before August, 1947, during the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49 and how much expenditure on each item of these jobs the department have proposed to do in coming years, year by year ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** The estimated figures given below are with reservoir R. L. of 1580.

Project for new proposed Reservoir R. L. of 1680 is under preparation.

- (a) Total quantity of work under major works on Hydrel Channel.

	<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Cost.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
1. Earthworks	About 60 crores cft.	About 2. 2 crores.
2. Concrete & Masonry	About 75 Major Works to be constructed.	About 2. 0 crores.
3. Lining of Canals	3. 2 crores sft.	About 1. 6 crores.
4. Special T & P	—	About . 6 crores.

**Power Houses.**

	<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Cost</i>
1. Earthwork	About 3. 5 crores cft.	About 17 lacs.
2. Concrete & Masonry	About 20 lac cft.	About 60 lacs.
3. Generating machinery	—	4. 6 crores.

**Nangal Dam.**

1. Excavation	4 crores cft.	About . 44 crores.
2. Concrete & Masonry	—	About 1. 2 crores.
3. Gates & Gearings	—	About 0. 49 crores.

**Bhakra Bund.**

1. Diversion Works including Diversion Tunnels	3. 2 crores.
2. Preparation of foundations	1. 7 crores.
3. Dam proper	7. 6 crores.
4. Irrigation outlets	.5 crores.
5. Spillway	2. 00 crores.
6. Power Penstocks and Power Houses, including electrical works at the Dam.	12. 8 crores.
Quantity of Excavation in Dam.	..... 1 crore cyds.
Quantity of concrete & Masonry in the Dam shall be about	30 lacs cyds.

**Bist Doab Canal.**

Land	.....	0. 23 crores.
Concrete & Masonry	.....	0. 53 crores.
Earthwork Main Line	.....	0. 40 crores.
Distributaries	.....	0. 69 crores.

**Bhakra Main Canal & Branches.**

1. Surveys etc.		0. 54 crores.
2. Excavation of Main Canal & Branches.	190 crores cft.	3. 7 crores.
3. Concrete & Masonry	5 crore cft.	6. 0 crores.
4. Lining	10. 8 crores Sft.	5. 34 crores.
5. Special T & P	—	0. 87 crores.
6. Land		0. 85 crores.
7. Distributaries		3. 06 crores.
(b) 1. Nangal Hydel Channel	Excavation 5. 5 crore cft. Other items ..... Nil.	
2. Power House	Nil	
3. Nangal Barrage	Excavation 53 lacs cft. Other items ..... Nil.	
4. Bhakra Bund	Cost incurred: 18 lacs rupees.	
5. Main Canals	Quantities: Nil Cost Nil	
(c) The total quantities of work done during the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49 are given below :—		

	1947-48			1948-49	
	Excavation	Concrete & Masonry		Excavation	Concrete & Masonry
1. Nangal Hydel Channel.	3 Crores cft.	—		6 crores	Nil
2. Power Houses	4 lacs cft	—		14 lacs	Nil
3. Nangal Barrage.	21 lacs cft	—		38 lacs cft	27 lacs.
4. Bhakra Dam	2 crores cft.	—		3 crores cft.	Nil
5. Tunnelling work.	2 lacs cft	—		4 lacs cft.	Nil

## Quantities proposed to be done year by year.

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
1. Excava— tion.	80 crores cft.	80 cro— res cft.	80 cror— es cft.	30 crores cft.	—	—
2. Concreting Bhakra & Nangal Dams	30 lacs cft.	10 lacs cft.	1. 3 cro— res cft.	2. 3 cro— res cft.	2. 3 cror— res cft.	2. 2 cro— res cft.
3. Major Masonry works	About two hundred Nos: shall be constructed.					
4. Lining of ) )	2. 3 cror— es sft.	3. 3 cro— res sft.	2. 7 cro— res sft.	2. 0 cro— res sft.	—	—
(d) 1. Bhakra Dam	1955-56					
2. Nangal Dam	1950-51					
3. Nangal Hydel Channel	1951-52					
4. Main Canals	1952-53.					
(e) Total cost Nangal Bhakra Project with Reservoir R. L. 1580.....	Rs. 101 crores.					
(i) Plant and Machinery excluding electrical machinery	Rs. 7 crores.					
(ii) Supervising staff required	Rs. 8 crores.					
(iii) Cement approximately 10 lac tons	Cost about 7 crores.					
(iv) Most of the work will be done through contractors under departmental supervision.						

It would involve too much labour to work out the yearly break up for each item. Break up of total expenditure direct and indirect is however given below :

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Crores of Rs.	17. 6	22. 0	16. 6	13. 2	12. 2	5. 5	2. 5	1. 0

## LOSS OF MACHINERY ETC. AT ANANDPUR RAILWAY STATION

**192. Sardar Rattan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- the amount of demurrage the Irrigation Department (Nangal and Bhakra Projects) have paid for not removing their Stores at Anandpur Sahib and Nangal Railway stations separately;
- whether it is fact that stores such as slack coal, iron rods, tools and plants worth thousands of rupees have been buried under the earth banks of Railway Yards at Anandpur Sahib;
- what action if any the Government has taken or proposed to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- Rs. 6097/9/- at Anandpur Sahib and Rs. 9512/- at Nangal.
- only two wagons of slack coal belonging to a contractor.
- Detailed investigation is being made to fix responsibility for the demurrage. In view, however, of the completion of Canal Rail-way sidings at Nangal, there can now be no question of any further damage to stock or payment of demurrage.

PROGRESS IN THE EXECUTION OF WORK IN CONNECTION  
WITH NANGAL AND BHAKRA PROJECTS.

**193. Sardar Rattan Siugh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:

- (a) an authentic programme about the execution of Nangal and Bhakra projects and when will these projects be completed;
- (b) the measures Government has adopted or propose to take to watch the progress of these works;
- (c) whether these works are being done according to the prescribed schedule of time fixed,
- (d) whether he has got any graphical chart showing the progress of these works hung in his office,
- (e) whether these charts have been kept upto date;
- (f) whether these charts indicate that the works are being done according to the prescribed Schedule,
- (g) if the answer to part (f) be in the negative, what measures the Government propose to take to accellerate the progress so as to complete these projects within the target dates ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** (a) Proposed programme of construction is given below :

## BHAKRA DAM.

- 1948-49 Construction of buildings at Nangal and Bhakra, Road and Railway from Nangal to Bhakra, muck roads at Bhakra. Completion of railway tunnel, pilot headings of Diversion Tunnels, and open cut excavation-exploration.
- 1949-50 Construction of buildings, completion of road and railway and diversion tunnel excavation. Start of stripping of foundation for the dam and lining of tunnels.
- 1950-51 Completion of buildings—stripping of foundations of dam continued. Completion of lining of diversion tunnels. Construction of coffer dams, initial diversion of river.
- 1951-52 Completion of stripping of foundations, grouting of foundations and concreting of dam started.
- 1952-53 Grouting of foundations and concreting of dam continued.
- 1953-54 Same as 1952-53. Plugging of tunnels. Start of Spillway and power-house.

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1954-55 Concreting of dam completed. Completion of spillways and power-house. Erection of gates.

1955-56 Completion of dam in all respect.

#### NANGAL CANAL

1948-49. Construction of Nangal Head Works ...50%  
Construction of Nangal Canal ...30%

1949-50. Completion of Nangal Head Works except erection of gates and steel work and raising of crest to final level.

Construction of Nangal Canal ...75%

Construction of Power Houses ...30%

1950-51. Erection of Gates and steel work at Nangal Head Works—Raising of crest to final levels. Completion of Nangal Canal including lining—Completion of Civil works on Power Houses 1 and 2.

1951-52. Construction of Tail Regulator and escape completion.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL WORKS.

1949-50. Survey of transmission line routes and pegging of tower locations and selection of sub-station sites, construction of buildings for main sub-stations and survey of local distribution towns.

1950-51. Commence erection of 1st Power Station and Transmission Line—Nangal-Delhi Section.

1951-52. Complete 1st Power Station, commence 2nd Power Station, Complete grid sub-stations Ambala, Panipat, Delhi and Transmission line from Nangal to Delhi and start Transmission line in other sections and local distribution in several towns.

1952-53. Completion of power station No. 2, all remaining grid sub-stations and erection of local distribution net work in more towns.

1953-54. Completion of entire Nangal work.

#### BHAKRA

1954-55. Commence erection of Bhakra Power Station Unit No. 1, erection of remaining Transmission system, Local Distribution net work and Branch Transmission lines.

1955-56. Commence conversion of 132 to 220 KV. line from Nangal to Delhi and completion of Power Station Unit No. 1.

1956-57. Commence Power station Unit No. 2.

1957-58. Completion of first stage.



## SHAKRA AND BIST DOAB CANALS.

1948-49. Alignment Main Line and Branches—Start earthwork Main Line—Investigation on type of lining.  
Construction of buildings.

1949-50. Earthwork Main Line and buildings in progress. Start earthwork branches—Commencement of lining and masonry works.

1950-51. Earthwork, lining and masonry works on Main Line and Branches in progress. Alignment of Distributaries—Construction of Right Under Sluices and Divide Wall at Rupar.

1951-52. Earthwork, lining and masonry works on Main Canal and Branches in progress—Construction of work and masonry works on distributaries. Raising Crest of Rupar Weir and remodelling left Under Sluices and Divide wall at Rupar. Remodelling of Rupar Weir completed.

1952-53. Main Line, Branches and Distributaries completed.

1953-54. Completion of system.

(a) Bhakra Canal will be given Kharif supplies in April 1953 and perennial supplies in 1954. Nangal Canal will be completed in 1951-52 and supply electric energy in 1952. Bhakra Dam will be completed in all respects in 1955-56, but partial storage of supplies can start in 1954.

(b) Monthly Progress Reports are being submitted by Department to the Government.

(c) Yes.

But future progress is dependant upon the receipt of machinery in time, which has been ordered or is being ordered.

(d) No, but Graphs are under preparation.

(e & f) Do not arise.

(g) The progress is being watched carefully by the Chief Engineer, who is submitting monthly progress reports to the Provincial and Central Governments.

Sardar Sarup Singh, Chief Engineer, has been sent abroad to arrange for machinery required to accelerate the progress and to finalise the design of the dam—Central Government has, at the request of East Punjab Government, accorded the highest priority to Bhakra Nangal Projects, and has promised full assistance regarding supply of materials etc.

HINDU-SIKH TENSION AMONGST THE STAFF EMPLOYED  
IN CONNECTION WITH NANGAL-BHAKRA PROJECT.

**194. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is a great Hindu-Sikh tension amongst the supervising staff employed at Nangal and Bhakra Projects;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to remove this evil from this Department;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make an enquiry into this matter;
- (d) whether it is a fact that a Hindu Under Secretary of Projects Branch at Simla has refused to take a Sikh Steno for him on the plea that the said officer is in the habit of smoking cigarettes in his office, which the Sikh Steno would not like ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No.
- (b) )  
& ) Do not arise.
- (c) )
- (d) No, both the Under Secretaries, Project, are non-smokers.

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CONSTRUCTION OF RUPAR-NANGAL ROAD

**195. Sardar Rattan Singh :** Will the hon Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total estimated cost for Rupar-Nangal Road;
- (b) whether it has been completed within those estimates, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the date fixed in the beginning for the completion of this road;
- (d) whether it was completed within the target date; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department has changed the alignment of Road between Rupar and Nangal at some places for two-three times, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the total extra expenditure made on such changes together with the total area of the cultivated lands spoiled by making borrowpits at different places on account of these changes ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) The total estimated cost of Rupar-Nangal Road is Rs. 60,33,000.
- (b) The work is still in progress and is likely to be completed within the estimated figures.

- (c) No definite target date was fixed for completion of this road but it was desired to complete it as early as possible.
  - (d) The road is practically complete except for the few major bridges.
  - (e) The alignment of the road has been changed at a few places either to suit the changes made in the railway alignment and the canal alignment or to make it more convenient for local people.
  - (f) Most of the places where alignment has been changed are such where work had not been started. There may be one or two places on the whole of the road where work had been started and the alignment has been changed. The cost of all these changes and the areas of cultivated land spoiled by making these changes is negligible.
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#### SUPPLY OF ARMS TO VILLAGES ON BORDER

**196. Sardar Rattan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that raiders from Pakistan raided village Sultan Khan in Ferozepore district recently;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this village is at a distance of more than 8 miles from the border;
- (c) whether it is a fact that arms have been supplied by the Government to inhabitants of villages within a range of 8 miles from the border only;
- (d) what action the Government propose to take to protect villages at a distance of more than 8 miles from the border ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes; the exact distance is 9½ miles.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Government have intensified patrolling of border areas by Provincial Armed Police and fire-arms are supplied under the Village Defence Scheme to villages when necessary.

#### JAGIR PAID DURING YEAR 1948-49.

**197. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing total amount of jagirs paid during 1948-49 to individuals and religious institutions in the province ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

It is regretted that the time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

### CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN VILLAGE DHUN

**198. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to the answer to my unstarred question no. 93, will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government and with what result?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

Steps are being taken to get the records of all Cooperative Societies (including Dhun Consolidation of Holdings Society) of Kasur tehsil now transferred to Amritsar District, from West Punjab. A reply is still awaited from the West Punjab authorities, who were addressed in the matter.

### BUDGET-GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Mr. Speaker:** The Assembly will now resume general discussion of the Budget.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban (*Hindustani*)): Mr. Speaker, I have gone through the Budget, from one end to the other, as far as possible. There is no doubt that as far as the speech of hon. Minister for Finance was concerned, it was well-worded. His Secretary too, had taken pains to get the Budget Volumes well-printed and well bound. In this connection I am reminded of a couplet, which runs as follows:

सचाई छिप नहीं सकती बनावट के असूलों से ,  
खुशबू आ नहीं सकती कभी कागज के फूलों से ।

ਸਚਾਈ ਛਿਪ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਤੀ ਬਨਾਵਟ ਕੇ ਅਸੂਲੋਂ ਸੇ ।  
ਖੁਸ਼ਬੂ ਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਤੀ ਕਥੀ ਕਾਗਜ਼ ਕੇ ਫੂਲੋਂ ਸੇ ॥

I studied the Budget for the last year also, but this year, I expected a different Budget from the present Minister for Finance, who is a refugee and claims to be a socialist. In view of the deficit revealed by the last Budget, a Ways and Means Committee was set up by this House, to explore means of revenue and to recommend reduction in expenditure, wherever possible. As a member of

that Committee, I can say that we wasted a good deal of time in discussing various matters and thousands of rupees had to be spent on it, but the Committee has not been able to arrive at any conclusion. Whenever a certain Department was taken up and it was suggested that the salaries of the Heads of Departments, who usually belong to the Indian Civil Service or some other Imperial Service, should be reduced, it was contended that these were covenanted services. If the question of His Excellency the Governor's staff was taken up, we were told that the Assembly could not interfere in this matter.

**Premier :** On a point of order, Sir, I would like to know whether a member can disclose what was discussed in a special Committee ?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not desirable.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I only wish to tell the hon. Premier that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has not been able to achieve any useful purpose. There is not sufficient time at my disposal to go into details, but I wish to draw your attention to a few figures.

As there are only thirteen districts in this province, we should reduce the number of Heads of Departments. If we can not do that, we should at least reduce their salaries. If you look at page 150 of the Budget, you will notice, Sir, that our Financial Commissioner draws a salary of Rs. 3,500 per mensem. What is the necessity of this fat salaried officer, in this small province ? When I recommended the abolition of this post to the Committee.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot disclose what took place in that Committee, so long as the report of that Committee is not published.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Sir, I beg to submit that the burden of these big posts is too heavy for this province. In addition to one Financial Commissioner, there are two Divisional Commissioners also. Similarly there is an Accountant General, who is paid a very high salary.

If you look at page 177 of the Budget, you will find that there are seven Judges in our High Court. Each Judge gets Rs. 4,000 per mensem. These seven Judges cost the Province Rs. 3,27,600 per annum. In addition to these Judges, there is a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar, an Assistant Registrar and a large establishment. What is the necessity of our High Court having seven Judges ? If we can not reduce their number, we should try to reduce their salaries. There is not sufficient work for these Judges. They hold courts for two or three days in a week and have no work on other days.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** On a point of order. The salaries of the High Court Judges are not fixed by the Provincial Government. These are fixed by the Central Government.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** If the Provincial Government does not fix their salaries, it can recommend to the Central Government that these should be lowered.

Then, Sir, there are two Directors General of Rehabilitation. One is in-charge of urban rehabilitation and the other is in-charge of rural rehabilitation.

On page 187 of the Budget, you will find provision made for the Inspector General of Jails. As our province consists of only thirteen districts, the number of Jails is naturally very small. All the same, our Inspector General of Jails will be paid Rs. 18,930 during the next year. What I beg to submit is that no effort what-so-ever has been made to reduce the salaries of Heads of Departments.

In the united Punjab, we had five Ministers, while now we have seven Ministers, eleven Parliamentary Secretaries and two Private Parliamentary Secretaries.

**Premier :** There are some candidates also.

**Shrimati Sita Devi ;** At page 140 of the Budget, it will be found that our Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries will draw as their salaries Rs. 52,800 and Rs. 9,000 respectively.

Sir, I wish to enquire as to what was the necessity of appointing seven Ministers for this small province.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** The hon. Lady Member feels worried about seven, we are soon to have nine of them.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What surprises me all the more is the fact that these Ministers have about then eleven Parliamentary Secretaries who do not do any work get Rs. 92,800 by way of salaries. I might have been able to understand the idea of seven Parliamentary Secretaries for seven Ministers but the wisdom of having eleven of them passes my comprehension. And so far as the appointment of a Private Parliamentary Secretary is concerned, I don't think any justification or excuse can be trotted out for his existence.

Now I invite the attention of the hon. Members to page 149 of the Budget where they would find a colossal provision of Rs. 87,620 for Chairman, Members and Secretary of the Public Service Commission. To my mind there is a good deal of scope for saving in such an item and we



cannot absolve ourselves from our duty of cutting down unnecessary expenditure by saying that the Central Government does not permit that. As a matter of fact no attempt appears to have been made to put an end to the traditions of the Englishman. All the departments which existed during the old regime are continuing with greater strength to-day. In the Budget you come across the same Electrical Engineer, the P. W. D. Engineers, Director of Public Instruction, Director of Agriculture, Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Custodian of Property and several other officers drawing the same fabulous salaries as they ever did during the British rule. But such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated now when a Congress or say a popular Government is in power. The Indian Civil Service man or the Indian Police Service man should not be allowed to suck the blood of the poor in the changed circumstances.

Sir, the most disconcerting feature of this Budget is that no attempt has been made to reduce the salaries of big officers and the sad plight of the lower officials, for example the Chaprasis etc., has been altogether lost sight of. They are still in receipt of such meagre salaries that it must be impossible for them to make both ends meet. I remember having once asked the Finance Minister whether the Chaprasis were paid anything extra for their services performed in addition to their regular duties and the reply was that they got only eight annas for that for a whole day. I was greatly pained to hear this and desired that their salaries should somehow be increased as I expect better things from a Cabinet of which Sardar Partap Singh is a member. But the Finance Minister innocently answered that if I could suggest some more sources of revenue, he could only then accede to my request. It is very strange that in case some relief is to be given to the poor we must have recourse to some other source of revenue but our generosity knows no bounds when we have to please the big officers. The lower officials are extremely discontented and a clear indication of their state of mind is visible from the strikes of the Patwaris and the school teachers. We should not take such incidents lightly as there must be something very serious lurking behind them.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** At least we do not find anything.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** It is because the hon. Minister is occupying the ministerial gaddi and is intoxicated with power. Hon. Members should know that such incidents have very serious repercussions. There is a likelihood of these poor people being used as tools by some agitators who may work havoc in the country.

Sir, very large amounts of money are being wasted on useless things. For example I wish to invite your attention to the large expenditure that is being incurred on the Publicity Department. At least I

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am not aware of any useful work this Department may be doing for the public at large. I fail to follow the reason why this Department is publishing its fortnightly magazine 'Pardip' on such fine paper in three languages, i.e., Hindi, Gurmukhi and English. This magazine appears to have been started only for doing some propaganda in favour of Government and contains absolutely no useful information. I would suggest that if this magazine cannot be altogether stopped steps should at any rate be taken to effect some economy by using inferior paper and discontinuing its publication in English. Anyhow I am not satisfied with the journal as it is being published at present.

**Shri Virendra :** But a brother of yours is an editor of this journal.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Yes, you used to be a Director and you are also my brother.

Sir, I wish to know why, if this Government is really a popular Government, it stands in need of Acts like the Public Safety Act. People don't like this Government. Even the other day at a meeting of about five hundred workers at Ambala it was unanimously passed that this Government was no good and should be immediately changed.

A few words about the Police Department. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said that during the last year our expenditure on this Department was rupees two hundred and sixty nine lakhs but now it has gone up by rupees twenty three lakhs and has reached the figure Rs. 2,92,00,000. The reason for this increase according to him is that East Punjab is a border province and more police is required for purposes of security and safety. I wish to tell the hon. Minister that the security and safety that he is talking of is non-existent here. There is no law and order in the province. Robberies are being committed in broad daylight and the honour of nobody is safe. Harijan and other girls are being abducted in very large numbers every day. My hon. Friend Mastr Gurbanta Singh will be able to tell you what happened when a Harijan girl was carried away from a village near Jullundur. It was after a struggle of full five days that the girl was recovered. Hon. Members may also be aware of the tragedy that was enacted the other day at the Jaisalmar railway station. The station master was murdered and his house burgled. I ask, is this the law and order of this Government? Honestly speaking if I vote for this Budget it shall be for the sake of party discipline and not because it is a good Budget.

Sir, the hon. Minister for Finance has said that the omnibus service shall be a great source of income for us. But I don't know how. I would draw the attention of the House to the large expenditure that is being

incurred on this service which has been for the present started at Jullundur and Amritsar. At Jullundur there are only seventeen buses and the number is to be increased to 26 after some time. The expenditure at this place is Rs. 27,58,000. The expenditure at Amritsar is Rs. 7,44,000. These are staggering figures and I cannot for a moment imagine that any private company which plies 15 or 20 buses would ever spend so much.

Now, Sir, I draw your attention to pages 493 and 494 of the Budget. Provision has been made there for the establishment of the Omnibus Service of Amritsar and Jullundur. No mention has been made of the income accruing from this source. But provision has been made for a large establishment for this purpose. For instance, there is a provision for 62 Drivers and 62 Conductors. I am sure if this service were to be run by some private company, the expenditure on the establishment would have been far less. Again I draw the attention of the House to the Head, Forests Department. Even here the expenditure is almost equal to the income. In short, I see deficit everywhere, but no effort has been made to make it up.

There is one thing more which I want to point out. It has been stated by the hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech that the Government has to incur an expenditure of Rs. 20 lakhs on account of Simla being its Capital. But has it been prescribed by some doctor that the Government should remain at Simla? Can't it move down to some other place? Almost two years have passed and the Province has been ruined on account of this wrong decision of our Government. All the big industrialists, doctors and businessmen have gone over to other Provinces. We have been protesting against this decision of the Government both inside and outside this House, but to no avail. A poor person coming from the plains has to spend no less than Rs. 50 to get a paper from a file in the Secretariat. Over and above all this inconvenience experienced by the public, the Government has to incur an extra expenditure of Rs. 20 lakhs for keeping Simla as its Capital. The hon. Ministers, no doubt, have no difficulty in this arrangement, because they can run down to Jullundur during the days of snowfall, but no attention is being paid to the hardships of the people. If the decision about the Capital had been arrived at, it will have gone some way to improve the hard lot of our Province.

**Sardar Isher Singh Mujhail** (Amritsar, North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, with your permission, I want to say a few words with regard to the Budget as well as the conditions now prevailing in our Province. The British Government during the last days of its regime in India, tried to solve many important problems, perhaps like the dying lamp which throws its last flickers of light. One of these important problems is the Sikh problem as I may call it. But it is regretted that no attention has been paid

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to this problem by the Government. In this connection I would like to submit that there are persons in our country and even in our Province, who think that the Sikh problem is akin to the problem of Muslim League with regard to its demand for Pakistan. Such friends think that the Sikhs want to have their own sovereign state, outside the Indian Union. There is no doubt that, like every other community, Sikhs have also in them certain extremists who may be harbouring such separatist notions in their minds, but so far their tendencies have not been made public. But the amount of support these persons have got at this time in spite of their machinations, among the public, is amply demonstrated by the events of the last few days. When I say that the Sikhs do not want to solve their problem in the way the Muslims did, it does not mean that the problem does not exist at all. Again there is the question of language which has not been so far solved, though it is quite clear that the language of the Province is Punjabi. I know what sort of treatment is being meted out to this language. Efforts are also being made to show that Punjabi is the language of the Sikhs only and it has nothing to do with the other Punjabis. What I would like to submit, Sir, is that, even if this language concerns the Sikhs only, it is very essential that the Government should expressly clarify its position with regard to the position of Punjabi in the Province. It will have to satisfy the Punjabi speaking people. I will speak at length about this matter when discussion on Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur's Resolution is resumed. But I cannot help saying that the satisfactory solution of this problem will go a long way to calm the agitated minds of the Punjabi speaking people.

Now I come to the second question of the problem of the Sikhs. Our Constituent Assembly has decided that ours will be a secular State which means that the State would not be based on any religion. It further means that no such laws will be enacted which will be detrimental or favourable to the interests of any particular religion. But I am pained to see that the Government has not agreed to give the same facilities and privileges to the Scheduled Castes among the Sikhs, as have been given to the other Scheduled Castes. It means that our Government is behaving in a discriminatory manner towards the two classes of people who are economically and socially of the same status. If this discriminatory attitude is maintained, I am afraid it will be a grave injustice to the Sikh community and will ultimately result in serious consequences.

I think I will not be doing my duty if I leave the services out of account here. I do not however want that the recruitment to the services should be done on communal basis. But I do want that the considerations of justice and equity should not be lost sight of. For instance I draw the attention of the House to the Industries Department in which all the



officials getting Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per mensem belong only to one community. Similarly the number of the officials in the same Department getting over five hundred rupees is 19 out of which 17 belong to one community and only two to the other. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue by the persons at the helm of our affairs, I am afraid the consequences would be disastrous. Again there is the case of the Transport Department which has about two dozens of high officers all of whom belong only to one community. I do not mean that those officers are not qualified. But it does not mean either that equally, if not better qualified, persons are not available from the other community. Whenever there used to be a demand for services during the British regime, it was considered a demand for a few concessions. But now we have our own Government in our province and as such this problem of services cannot be a matter of the grant of a few concessions. The services at present are a source of political power and, if any community is ignored in them, it will naturally try to snatch this power.

Sir, in the last session of this Assembly an important Bill was passed. It aimed at consolidating the holdings of the farmers so that they may be enabled to increase production which at present suffers on account of the fragmentation of holdings. That important measure adopted in the last session was to benefit the poor farmers. But I am surprised to note that it finds no place in the present budget. There is no provision in the budget except for a Director in this connection. It appears the Government is not very keen about this scheme. I am at a loss to understand how this work will be carried out with only a Director. Such half-hearted measures cannot lead to any increase in production for which I hear, the Government is so keen. The hon. Minister in charge has either forgotten this scheme altogether or else he is not very keen about its being put into practice. As far as the tillers of the soil are concerned there is nothing in this budget which can win their admiration. They find no provision to be of any benefit to them.

Sir, here I wish to say something about Canals, which were wealth of United Punjab before Partition. I don't mean to say anything about the new Canals because at present no provision is made to dig new Canals. Here I refer to old Canals which are mostly situated in East Punjab. West Punjab Government has admitted our claim on Bari Doab Canal. But it is strange that our Government continues supplying water to West Punjab at the cost of East Punjab farmers as if the Canal is a property of West Punjab. Before this War there were certain schemes for Amritsar District by which those lands which were not getting canal water would get it. If this was true, Sir, may I know why more water is not made available now for the

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District of Amritsar ? Why is water supplied to West Punjab when we ourselves stand in need of it ? It would be better if the water is diverted to those lands in Amritsar District, which at present don't get any water at all. If our aim is to become self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains by increasing their production we should lose no time in making arrangements for the supply of canal water twice a year to those lands which are at present getting it once a year and once a year to those lands which don't get any water under the present circumstances.

**Sardar Piara Singh :** What about those who don't get water even for drinking purposes ?

**Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** You may get time to have your say about them. I am talking of Amritsar District where every one gets water for drinking without any difficulty.

Sir, now I wish to dwell upon the condition of kisans now-a-days. Theirs is a hard lot. Farmers stick to the plough simply because they cannot do anything else. In good old days agriculture was considered a decent and respectable occupation but now-a-days its dignity has received a set-back. This is due to the fact that Agriculture has been a neglected department. Government whose duty it is to provide all sorts of facilities and conveniences to the farmer has failed to discharge it efficiently as far as agriculture is concerned. The farmer enjoys insurance neither against cattle nor to cover the risks against the security of foodgrains. Facilities for the supply of seeds, manures and water are lacking. So long as arrangements for proper insurance of cattle against disease and provisions of other necessary facilities are not made, agriculture will not be a respectable profession. Some of the Pansals have been left in Pakistan. Our Government does not appear to pay any attention to this matter. If it is serious about the grow-more-food campaign in the Province, its first duty should be to make arrangements with regard to these Pansals. We are not getting water which is so urgently needed; so why should there be any delay in this matter ?

Sir, there is one thing more which I wish to bring to the notice of this House. Not very far back the farmers had to buy seed at the rate of Rs. 25/- to Rs. 30/-. Government had no arrangements for the supply of seed to the farmers at the lower rate. Consequently farmers were put to a lot of difficulty. But now when after a long and laborious effort the farmer is to get the reward of his work, the price of his product would come down. What I mean to suggest is that ways and means should be found out to keep the prices of foodgrains stable throughout the year. One such way is to form a Corporation for the purpose of the



purchase and selling of foodgrain. It should buy foodgrains from the farmers at a fixed rate and sell it likewise. The share in the profit that may accrue to it should also be given to the seller.

In the end, Sir, I would like to mention a matter of deep resentment in our District. There were three types of land in Amritsar—Chahi, Nehri and Chahi-Nehri. But later on only two types of lands are being entered in the Revenue papers. The Chahi-Nehri type was abolished. On account of this arbitrary action many farmers have suffered. Those who sunk wells were first encouraged to do so, but they are worst sufferers in the new set-up. I wish to convey the feelings of farmers on this account.

**An hon. Member:** On a point of order, Sir, may I know if there is no time limit for members today?

**Mr. Speaker :** When I had fixed the time limit the other day no hon. Member was forthcoming to make a speech. Even today there is a time limit. May I ask the hon. Member to wind up?

**Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:** The people of my district unanimously demand that no changes whatsoever should be effected in the 'Chahi Nehri' lands which continue to exist in the old revenue records.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** On a point of information, Sir. May I know if any time limit has been fixed?

**Mr. Speaker :** When I had fixed the time limit, no member was forthcoming to speak. However there is the time limit. Will the hon. Member please wind up?

**Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Sir, I was submitting that Government should not hesitate to pay their attention towards the people in general and the people living in the rural areas in the province in particular, with a view to making this province a prosperous one. If this is done, I am sure, our province will be in a position to produce more and we will thus have sufficient foodgrains to meet our daily needs. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing South-east Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, it is my pleasant duty to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on introducing the budget of the province. He also deserves our congratulations for showing to the world outside that the budget which he has prepared, in spite of adverse conditions of the province, indicates that conditions in the province are O. K. But it does not mean that we who have to live in this province should subscribe to the view of the Government.

(Shri Bihari Lal Chanana)

Sir, I have tried to go through the various details already provided in the budget. I have also heard the speeches of the hon. Members who just not preceded me and I have been lucky enough in finding some material from their speeches just like those businessmen who, having finished their capital, restart their business on the capital of others.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** The hon. Member has always been resorting to such practices.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Let me bring this point to the notice of the hon. Member that the love for refugees in the district of Rohtak is quite clear from their clamouring over the appointment of refugee secretary in the local body. Sir, through you I wish to invite the attention of the Government to the fact that the provision of huge amounts in the Budget and also the speech of the hon. Finance Minister, by which they have shown to the world that they have produced a balanced Budget, should not put them under any false illusion. I cannot do without saying this that the hon. Finance Minister happened to represent such a district in West Punjab which was the centre of a big industry. This very industry was well known in the whole world. This industry was really the pride of this district. In fact this very district had produced such men who by dint of their business capacity and capability had earned fame in America and elsewhere. So far we have not seen men of such talents and spirits in any part of the country. I have given this reference simply to show that no adequate provision whatsoever has been made in the Budget for this business community from the district of Sialkot. In fact Government have not done anything substantial for them. They have only been crying from their house-tops that they have produced a balanced Budget.

Sir, I wish to focus the attention of the hon. Members on this point that we, who happen to be here as ex-Members of West Punjab Assembly, have no separate constituencies. The hon. Minister who himself happens to be an ex-Member of the West Punjab Legislative Assembly has been very broad-minded in offering his apology to those ex-members of the West Punjab who represented urban interests and who have been forced by circumstances to migrate to this province. I wish to quote a few lines from the Budget speech which runs as follows :—

To my urban displaced brethren, I am afraid, I must offer an apology. The task of rehabilitating them has been a most difficult one and that not because Government did not have the will, nor because Government officers appointed for the job did not try their utmost to help and speed up the work of their rehabilitation, but because the very nature of urban resettlement is so very much more difficult and so very different from the work of rural resettlement.

It is crystal clear from this that so far nothing has been done for the urban displaced people. I had every hope that the hon. Finance Minister would press the Government for the creation of a separate portfolio for the re-settlement of his urban displaced brethren. But I am constrained to remark that in the presence of the so many existing portfolios which have been felt necessary in the public interest to create, a separate portfolio for the resettlement of displaced urban people has not been felt necessary. It is abundantly clear from the lines quoted above that the hon. Minister has utterly failed in doing anything substantial for his urban displaced brethren. Government should have found it necessary to appoint a separate Minister for the urban rehabilitation. It will not be out of place to mention here that the hon. Premier has already pointed out that the selection of the Ministers is not made on personal grounds or on the basis of party politics and that they are selected to suit the needs of the time. I would therefore like to take this opportunity of suggesting to the Government that there should be a separate Minister for Urban Re-settlement when according to Government's own admission urban rehabilitation has not been successfully handled in the past. I cannot do without saying this that the hon. Finance Minister has not made any effort to press the Government for the creation of a separate portfolio. In this connection I am reminded of an instance. Once a trader was travelling in a ship with his servant to purchase some goods. When the ship landed near a city he asked his servant to go to the town and fetch some goods for him. As soon as the servant crossed the portals of the city, he was made the Raja of that place and he not only forgot to purchase goods for his master but he forgot his master also. Similarly, we are complaining against the attitude of the hon. Finance Minister who also happens to be an ex-Member of the West Punjab Assembly, and it is on that score that he became a Minister and who has not taken any pains to do anything substantial for his urban displaced brethren. As a matter of fact he is not to blame. The fault may not directly lie with the Government. It will not be out of place to mention here that the hon. Minister for Public Works has been pleased to remark earlier, though humourously, that he consults all the hon. Members except of course the ex-Members of the West Punjab Assembly. We had every hope that the Government would not lag behind in safeguarding the interests of the urban displaced people. But I am constrained to remark that no heed has been paid to it so far by the Government. To-day, I hear the hon. Minister, who has become a Raja, just like the servant of the trader already referred to by me, offering an apology to his urban displaced brethren whom he has completely forgotten. Under the circumstances, I wish to urge upon the Government to make some suitable and effective provision in the Budget for safeguarding the interests of the urban displaced people. .

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

Now, Sir, I want to give some constructive suggestions. Every hon. Member says that provision should have been made for this thing or that thing but so far as the question of taxation is concerned, no other tax except the Sales Tax is proposed to be levied. This clearly shows that the policy of this Government is out and out an anti-trade and anti-urban. I wonder, Sir, if the Government want to make up all the deficit by crushing the trading community and the urban people and especially that section which is known as the lower middle class. This is the only inference that can be drawn from the various measures taken by the Government to add to its revenues. We see that the prices of food grains have soared so high that they are many times the pre-war prices but I must point out that the water rate has not at all been increased. The income that the Government is deriving from this source hardly covers the expenditure. In some cases, the Government is actually supplying water at a loss. Again Sir, in many provinces such as Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal etc., agricultural income tax has been levied with a view to augmenting the scanty resources of the Provincial Governments. I want to emphasize, Sir, that unless our Government resorts to this taxation, it will not be able to provide sufficient funds for the Beneficent Departments. Sales tax alone won't make its financial position better.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I put one question, Sir? If Lalaji is asked to pass one night in the open fields and watch them being watered, I can bet he will not be found alive next morning.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** As a *Lala*, I would request Mr. Speaker to give me additional time in lieu of that which is being wasted by undue interruptions. (*Interruptions*). Sir, I have my own standards of behaviour; others have their own. Such brethren will have to be set right by the Gandhian technique, I mean non-violence.

Sir, I feel that the Government will have to find other sources of revenue, if it has to give up its anti-trade and anti-urban policy, which is bound to ruin the province in the long run. Every section of the people, whether rural or urban, will have to contribute its share to the Provincial revenues and it is imperative that the Government should keep in view that no section of the people is put under undue burden of taxation.

I am just reminded of another matter. I can't understand the attitude of the people who object to the increase in the provision for the Police on the ground that the Police has already a bad repute, but who insist that certain offences be made cognizable, ignoring the fact that *Lalas* are as much liable to be unnecessarily harassed by the Police as any other set of people. They perhaps hold such views, as a natural



consequence of their anti-trade bias. They would welcome everything which is likely to affect traders adversely.

**Mr. Speaker:** No reflections upon that Bill.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana:** I was saying, Sir, that wherever the trade is likely to be adversely affected, demand is made for making trivial offences cognizable. There is another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. While every year provision is made in the Budget for the help and uplift of the small peasants, has the Government ever thought of providing anything for the benefit of the trading community or has it ever considered the desirability of opening a welfare fund or scholarship fund for the children of its employees in subordinate services? I feel, Sir, that while preparing the Budget or laying down the principle underlying it, if any policy has been kept in view, it is the anti-trade policy. If any section of people has come in for extra burden of taxation, it is the business community. If any section of people has not been given any relief, it is again the *Lalās*.

As the time given to me is not much, I will try to finish what I have to say, as early as possible. Well, Sir, the first suggestion that I want to make is that the multiplicity of departments should somehow be done away with. In the present structure or set-up of administration, we can do no more than tinkering and that will not take us a long way. If we have to save money, we shall have to reduce our expenditure on Establishments to the minimum. It will not be possible to achieve this object by mere 'tinkering'. On the other hand the whole of the existing set-up will have to be replaced by another system by effecting revolutionary changes. The first step that I propose for the removal of multiplicity of departments is the amalgamation of three departments, viz, Industries, Civil Supplies and Transport, which are more or less of a commercial nature. These three departments should be merged and a new department should be created by their merger. This will not only make for reduction in the expenditure but will also go a long way in improving the efficiency of work. To illustrate this point, I might give a few instances. In the Supplementary Estimates for 1948-49, the following lines are inserted on behalf of the Civil Supplies Department.

The Government of India had allocated a total quantity of 1,20,000 tons of imported foodgrains to East Punjab during 1948. Against this, some 18,000 tons of foodgrains were received during the period from 1st January to 31st March, 1948. As the imported foodgrains were more costly, the East Punjab Government did not intend to draw the balance quota, hence no provision on this account was originally made. Since then, the position has changed as the prices of country foodgrains have risen to a great extent. The Government of India, however, in view of

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the changed conditions due to floods and non-receipt of expected foodgrains from Burma and Pakistan cannot afford to give more than 70,000 tons of imported foodgrains during the remaining part of the year 1948. A provision for 70,000 tons of imported Wheat has, therefore, been made.

**Premier :** May I know from which document the hon. Member is reading this quotation ?

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** From the Supplementary Estimates for 1948-49 (First Instalment). Sir, by reading this extract, I wanted to prove that the officers of Departments such as the Civil Supplies, even if they may be I. C. S. people cannot rightly understand the trends of the market or foresee future developments in the market. It is only the trade experts who can do so. Now in this case, the Government of India had offered to supply 1,20,000 tons of foodgrains to our Government but its officers, not knowing the future trends of the market, decided not to avail themselves of this offer. The result is that the Government has been compelled to purchase foodgrains at much higher rates, now that the Government of India has withdrawn its original offer.

Sir, I would like to quote another instance. The Industries Department advertised to the effect that the Government will afford all possible facilities in the matter of labour, capital, power, raw-materials and transport to those industrialists who would set up industries in the proposed industrial colonies of East Punjab. This was done to encourage the big industrialists and capitalists to come back to the East Punjab and make it an industrial centre. On the other hand, the Press Note from the Civil Supplies Department warns new industrialists against coming to Jagadhri giving certain reasons. The result is that while one Department invites, the other stops industrialists from coming to Jagadhri. What would the industrialists think of the two divergent statements issued by the same Government ? This shows lack of co-ordination.

Lastly, I would quote another example. It has been said that there should be nationalisation of industries. But may I know if the Government can successfully tackle this problem ? In this connection I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the advertisement which appeared in one of the papers some time ago. It reads as follows:

“Applications are invited from Registered or *Chartered Accountants* or others who have qualified in book-keeping and accountancy preferably having past experience of both Government and Commercial accounts for the post of senior Accountant in the grade of Rs. 130-250 per mensem.”

From the above advertisement it is obvious that the Government does not know what a *Chartered Accountant* is. There is a dearth



of Chartered Accountants in the Province so much so that there were hardly one or two Chartered Accountants in the whole of United Punjab. It is really strange that the minimum pay of the post carrying special qualifications is fixed at Rs. 130/- p.m. for a Chartered Accountant. Such a state of affairs is indicative of the fact that the Government cannot successfully run schemes requiring knowledge of commercial functions efficiently. Sir, I have no time to stretch this point any further and would say one thing more before by concluding, that all the sections of the present departments i.e. Industries, Civil Supplies and Transport, that are of a commercial nature, should be combined into a Directorate of Trade and Transport. This, while reducing multiplicity, will result in efficiency, being handled by men who know their job.

After the liberation of our country, the Britisher's hold on our land has been cut off forever. But it is interesting to know that the hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech at page 23 says:-“ that a new scheme of mass vaccination in T.B. has been initiated at the instance of the Government of India. It envisages inoculation of children between the ages of 1 to 18 years to try to give them immunity from T. B. for life. For this propose a foreign team of experts has arrived in East Punjab who will not only inculcate children but also train during their stay here teams of Indian doctors who can continue the work. The Government of India have agreed to meet the entire expenditure on this foreign team of experts and also supply free all the B. C. G. vaccine required for this purpose. Besides, we have provided for an expenditure of Rs. 68,000 on our Indian team of experts. I do not like to remind the hon. Finance Minister of his speeches made on the floor of this House before he became a Minister. opposing the principle of vaccination even to animals which according to him produces pernicious effect in the system of even an animal, not to say of the man. His views are well known to Members of this august House. In these circumstances, I fail to understand why this huge expenditure of Rs. 68,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I would request the hon. Member to avoid the delicate subject of homeopathy.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana:** Sir, I would say that with the advent of freedom, the old system—a legacy left by the British—is still allowed to continue. We should not indeed depend on medicines alone to cope effectively with such diseases. But the greater urgency is that we should provide for measures which directly help in raising the power of resistance in the body of the children and youngmen and this can only be done by spending liberally on items of nation building. It is regretted that no provision has been made for setting up of dairy colonies like the one recently opened in Bombay by respected Dr. Rajendra Pershad and for which the

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Bombay Government has given the right lead. I wish our Government could have copied it. Sir, I am obliged to close for want of time, though I have many important items to touch.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** (Ambala Division Landholders) :  
Sir, everybody has congratulated the hon. Minister for Finance on his performance and I think I will be failing in my duty if I did not congratulate him. I must say, Sir, that he has played a perfect Don Quixote right from the very beginning to the end. He gave such an unreal picture of the whole show that a deficit Budget, which has been characterised as such by his own Finance Secretary, has been shown by him to be a balanced one. He has tried to paint the picture that our province is going on pretty sound financially and we do not have to bother much about finding more money. That is the reason perhaps why we do not find any fresh sources of revenue having been tapped in the Budget. If you refer to the Memorandum, you will find that apart from a deficit of 8 crores, the Province has already incurred a debt of over 20 crores. When the Resources and Retrenchment Committee was constituted, we expected that the Committee would suggest ways and means for covering up that debt and also examine how far the economic position of the province can be improved. I had no doubt about the working of the Committee because the Finance Minister himself was the Chairman. But I am constrained to remark that I have been sadly disappointed. The hon. Minister for Finance has not bothered himself to look even into his own Department. If you refer to the set up of the Finance Department itself, you will find that the Department has a very expensive Secretary and besides, it has an Under Secretary, a Deputy Secretary and two Assistant Secretaries. We had formerly a Financial Adviser and Joint Secretary of the I. C. S. cadre. All this staff is for a small province whereas for the United Punjab there was only one Secretary and one Under Secretary. May I know from the hon. Minister where is the necessity for such a top heavy administrative machinery for his Department? Either the officers are inefficient or the Minister has been trying to find some foothold for some persons whom he wanted to oblige. Presumably for fear of criticism inside and outside the Legislature, he has got rid of the Financial Adviser, but has hastily retraced his steps by getting a new post sanctioned of the Joint Secretary of the Revenue Department and transferring the Joint Secretary of the Finance Department only after a few days he had been in his office. If such things can happen right under the nose of the hon. Minister for Finance himself, I have my doubts about the sincerity with which he is trying to curtail the expenditure of the province.

Coming to the resources, Sir, nothing has been said about tapping new resources. You will remember that before he became a Minister, he had suggested that one of the sources of revenue could be by starting a state lottery; luckily for us that gamble has not been allowed by the Government of India. Do I take it, Sir, that but for that gamble, no other resources could be found by this Government and we have to go begging to the Central Government for every thing? It is a very sad reflection if he is going to ward off the financial crisis in this way. He is behaving like the proverbial ostrich.

Just now Shri Behari Lal Chanana was grumbling about the Budget and some gentlemen representing rural interests were also grumbling about it. After all whom does this Budget please? Whom is it doing any good turn to? As a matter of fact, it is doing nothing for anybody and is just a *bania's bahikhata* showing how much is the income, how much is the expenditure and how much loan is needed. If this Budget was for the benefit of the common man—this ministry is always making loud profession that it does everything for the common man—then I should have seen the implementation of the promises held by the previous finance Minister, I mean the Prime Minister, that the province is going to have more schools, more dispensaries and better means of distribution of the essential commodities of life. But when you go over the province you will find almost nothing. How many dispensaries you find in the rural areas after the 15th of August, 1947 that have been put up by this Government? You will almost put them down to less than half a dozen and how much money has been spent on them, only the Government can explain.

Now, Sir, I come to the schools. If you look into the expenditure on schools by this Government you will find that less percentage of the province's income is being spent on the education now than it was in the undivided Punjab. I do not know what excuse they can give but certainly it does not show that they are doing something for the good of the common man. The University scandal is no secret to anybody. Sir, our University has no home of its own. No doubt the centre gave us 10 lacs but that was not enough; we should have at least put in another 10 lacs of our own if not more, but the provision in the budget is just little over 3 lacs. I think, Sir, that these departments are the real nation building departments and if the Government is going to economise on them it will be the falsest of the false economies.

Next I come to the communications in the province. Just a few minutes ago the hon. Minister for Public Works said in

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reply to a question that so many roads have been taken in hand in certain districts of the province. Although they were taken in hand long ago, yet we cannot see the reason why this scheme is not actually executed. They are all right in blue print; may be certain excavations have been done here and there but nothing has been achieved.

After all, Sir, what does this budget provide? Is it really going to do something for the common man, to better the lot of the man in the street? I personally see no signs of it and this is further borne out by the post war development plans. According to the scheme of the Government of India every province has to provide rupee for a rupee for the post-war development schemes but in the case of East Punjab in the beginning we will be getting this money without that condition from the Central Government—that does not mean that we are absolved of the responsibility of providing an equal amount from our own resources. Sir, where is the Government going to get this money from? The only hope that is held out by the Finance Minister is of the two main projects, the Bhakra and the Nangal. But how long are we going to wait for them? While going through this memorandum I came across an observation that to put through our schemes it might take 10 years, the original plan by the Government of India being that the province should put it through in 5 years' time. If in that manner the province is to drag along with its present financial position for 10 years I do not know how we will be able to pull through. We cannot continue to live on the hope of getting something after ten years. The Government would be well advised not to commit that mistake and they should tap new sources of revenue to put through their schemes of development as early as possible. They should not waste time in sending about their engineers, architects and planners on foreign tours and wait and wait and wait till something turns up. All this has naturally created a strange atmosphere in and outside the province. The people do not have any confidence in the efficiency of the East Punjab Government to tackle its own problems with the result that there has been a flight of capital, flight of man power and flight of anything that can be removed from this province and that situation can only be saved if it properly manages its Budget and spend properly. The funds it has should be put to the best use possible and it should depend on its own resources rather than on the help from outside.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (Hindustani):**  
Sir, to-day I have heard almost the whole of the criticism that has been levelled against the Budget. Of course, on the 11th of this month I



could not unfortunately listen to all the speeches which were delivered in this House but I know every detail of what was said. To-day I do not propose to say anything about the General Administration, Refugees and Rehabilitation problem, Irrigation and Agriculture but would explain the position of the Government with respect to other departments. Sir, I can also speak the language which some of my hon. Friends have thought fit to use but I shall refrain from doing so as I do not wish to waste the precious time of the House. I should only by way of a casual remark say that one of my friends was wistfully recalling the days of Sir Sikander, Sir Chhotu Ram and Sir Manohar Lal. I very well know that it was due to the fact firstly because he dared not oppose that regime then and secondly because he had benefited at their hands. I am sorry to tell him that things of that kind no longer happen under my Government. Another friend whom we have always known as a great Congressite went to the extent of saying that the British Raj was much better than this Government. He also said that at least one third of the hon. Members of this House had leanings towards the Hindu Maha-Sabha or the Akalis. I am greatly disappointed and pained to find that a man like him should prefer the British Government to our own Government but there is no help as he appears to have come to a final decision whether it is right or wrong. My hon. Friend has a biased mind and always refuses to see the truth. In spite of the fact that we have become free and in spite of the fact that as a Congressman he himself struggled so hard to achieve independence, there appears to be no change in his mentality and is still so full of praise for the British Government. I would in these circumstances request him kindly to follow the Government which has fortunately left us.

Sir, it has been said that the Budget is a deficit one and every attempt has been made by the Government to present it as a balanced Budget. Some hon. Friends have also been pleased to remark that the Budget is only an unnecessarily heavy volume of the old type which contains more figures and no useful schemes. I wish to tell them that a Budget always contains figures and no other things. In case they wanted to know the policy and the fresh schemes of the Government which would be undertaken during the new year, they should not resort to the volume of the Budget which has to be presented as it has been presented in the past but consult the other book which is known as the "New Expenditure". I am afraid, my hon. Friends have not taken the trouble of even opening this book which is full of information for them. I would further advise them that while criticising the Budget they should keep the year 1948-49 before them and should not lose sight of the hard times we have had to pass through. No doubt we may not have been

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able to do things as we promised when we presented the last Budget but there are reasons for that.

Sir, when we prepared the last Budget, the Government of India had sanctioned some money for our postwar schemes and asked us that we should submit our schemes to them. We did as desired in accordance with the usage and the rules, but the Government of India owing to inflation in the country got afraid of a financial crisis and abandoned the idea of undertaking any large schemes. They were of the opinion that money should only be spent immediately on productive schemes and all big projects and plans which could wait should be postponed. With this background we carried on negotiations with the Central Government as to how much money could be given to us and which useful and productive schemes we could put through. But as the House is aware, the country had to face a great food crisis. The prices of foodgrains shot up so high that the poor people could not pay them. Government of India was also helpless. Here I may refer to what my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Channana has said. He has criticised us for not demanding 1,20,000 tons of wheat from the Government of India. I may inform him and the House that during March last year when we embarked on a programme of procuring 70,000 tons of wheat, we were of the opinion that we might be able to obtain large quantities from our own markets and therefore deprecated the idea of purchasing imported wheat through the Government of India for which very heavy prices were to be paid. But unfortunately our forecasts did not come true. We had actually to face a shortage not only of 1,20,000 tons but of 3,00,000 tons as we did not have a good crop. In these circumstances we approached the Government of India to supply us a quantity of wheat not equal to 1,20,000 tons but two lakh tons. We know the Government of India tried its level best to meet our demand but it has not been able to do so completely as it could not procure sufficient quantity of wheat from abroad. We, therefore, had to seek the sanction of the House to purchase more foodgrains. The Government of India had to cut down all other expenditure in view of this food shortage, to save dollars for the import of foodgrains. All the postwar schemes, except those of immediate productivity, had to be modified and efforts were made to cut down expenditure on them. It also decided to produce more food in our country. As a result of that, a number of conferences were held. Besides, efforts are being made to get loan from the International Bank for use on development schemes. It is gratifying to note that the representatives of the Bank have already arrived here to study our schemes on the spot. I am glad to say that most probably they have agreed to advance the loan to the Government of India. Our province shall also get its share of that loan and it will be used for the implementation of such post-war schemes as have prospects of immediate productivity.



Our Bhakra Dam and Nangal Project were also examined by the representatives of the International Bank and they visited their sites as well. The House will be glad to know that they have approved these schemes of ours for the purpose of granting the loan.

Besides, the Government of India has approved our scheme for the reclamation of waste land, though the decision has not been finalised so far. The total area of waste land, at present, in our province is five lakhs of acres. Out of this area, one lakh acres will be reclaimed every year. The expenditure to be incurred on account of this scheme is to be borne by the Government of India, but it will be in the form of a loan to our Government and will be paid back out of the yield of land thus reclaimed. It has also been decided to bore 800 tube wells in this area of 5 lakh acres of land. These tube wells will be bored in the land which will not be irrigated by the Bhakra Dam Canals. I may add here that more water will be put into the West Jumna Canal from the Bhakra Dam Canal so that more area of land may be brought under irrigation. In this way the five lakh acres of land which are lying as waste land at present will be reclaimed in five years, at the rate of one lakh acres a year. By increasing the area of cultivable land, the Government is doing its best to increase the production of food grains. The Government of India has told us that we cannot be given as much money for our post-war schemes as we desire. It has, however, agreed to grant us fixed amount for this purpose within the next five or ten years. We shall also supplement this amount from our own resources. At present, the Government of India has agreed to give us  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees. But, after all, getting money does not solve the whole problem. For putting any scheme into practice, we shall require trained personnel and material which are not easily available at present.

It has also been said that the Government is not starting new hospitals in the province. Again we had to abandon our post-war scheme in this direction for want of trained doctors. It is our earnest desire to remove this shortage of trained doctors by spreading the medical education and we are going to spend more on it than was done during the days of the British Government even. During the current year alone, the Government has spent no less than ten lakhs of rupees on the medical college of Amritsar, in order to make it a standard medical institution. The college has also applied for recognition, to the All India Medical Council and I see no reason why recognition will not be granted. I am proud to say that our medical college at Amritsar is in a position today to stand in comparison with even the established medical college of Lahore. A post-graduate course for Tuberculosis has also been started in the said college at Amritsar. The House will be interested to know

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that we have modernised two hospitals at the district headquarters so far. Such modernised hospitals have been furnished with one hundred beds each and all medical equipment has been supplied therein. Arrangements have also been made for the employment of private practitioners in them. I also feel that qualified doctors are not available for the subsidized dispensaries either. We are also in want of lady doctors and trained nurses. We have, therefore, decided to grant some aid to the Ludhiana Medical School, for the improvement of teaching facilities, until it is raised to the standard of a college. For this purpose this school has been granted financial aid to meet its laboratory expenses for one year, so that the students studying in the school may get better education. Besides, the Government has also decided to help the Women Medical College at Ludhiana. This College prepares the students for the Licentiate's diploma examination. But it is not very useful. We are therefore urging upon the College to start the course for L. S. M. F. Then there is the Christian Medical College for Women. We are negotiating with its authorities and if agreement is reached regarding the terms etc. this College will be taken over by the Government. The Government is also running classes for the Dispenser's Course. We also intend to start Dental College and the Institute of Hygiene in our province. But this will take some time. We had the desire to modernise two hospitals; but due to the shortage of funds we have succeeded in modernising only one. One hospital will be modernised every year. This year the hospital at Hoshiarpur will be modernised. There will be provided one hundred beds in such a hospital which will be properly equipped. In this way, the process will go on till all the hospitals are modernised. In other provinces, such hospitals are started by the public spirited people. But here the case is different. Even at Simla there is the Ripon Hospital which is being run by the Municipal Committee of Simla. Besides there is the Lady Reading Hospital, which has been provided with beds for public. The Government of India, Simla Municipal Committee and East Punjab Government are negotiating about the running of these hospitals as a joint concern.

Now, Sir, take the case of the schools of the Province. According to Post War Development Scheme, basic education was to take precedence. As far as the scheme of starting schools according to the system of basic education is concerned, we wish to take it up soon. So far we have not received sanction from the Government of India. We are waiting for it. As soon as we receive the sanction we propose to set up a Training School at Jagraon. This school will turn out teachers who will take up the work of basic education throughout the Province. Full attention has been paid to physical education. Last year a training course was started at Tara Devi and it has trained a large number of Physical Training instructors. The next course will start in April.

It has been said that Government does not help the University and the University is suffering on that account. This is not so. We have been helping and we intend continuing this help. Last year the Government of India rendered a help of Rs. 10 lakhs to the University and we also gave a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs in addition to that, because we know that university is a non-official body and its meagre income comes from examination fee etc. This year the Financial Secretary, who happens to be a member of the Senate, has gone through the accounts kept by the University with a keen interest. If need arises the Government will not fail in its duty to lend a helping hand. Recently Delhi authorities asked us to remove the Physics and Chemistry Honours classes which are at present functioning at Delhi. So we have decided to shift the classes from there. Arrangements for the accommodation of these classes at the Government College Hoshiarpore are in progress. So, full attention is being paid towards higher education in the Province because we feel that it is an essential need. So there is no truth in the accusation that the Government does not devote proper attention towards education. So far as the demand for increase in the salaries of Professors is concerned, the Government looks sympathetically at it. The University will appoint a Committee to go into the question of College teachers and the Government will see what can be done to improve the condition of the College teachers.

In this House it has been emphasised by some Members that the present budget is a deficit budget. The hon. Finance Minister has clearly stated in his budget speech that it is a balanced budget. But this does not mean that we do not want to increase the income of the Province. We are indeed anxious to find out ways and means of increasing the income and we have been doing our level best to do so. With this object in view an announcement to impose Sales Tax was made in the last budget session and a Bill to the same effect was passed in October session. The Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee on this measure has not been received so far. But I have with me copies of 25 resolutions passed by the Committee. I will say something about one of these resolutions.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the hon. Premier going to disclose the contents ?

**Premier :** No, Sir, I am not going to disclose any secrets. I will read out only that portion which does not involve any divulging of secrets. In the resolution on rates and grades of pay of Heads of Departments it is stated :—

“We have considered the rates of pay applicable to the services and posts which are under the rule making powers of Provincial Government and have unanimously come to the conclusion that in view of the financial position of this province the question of a downward revision should be taken up and finalised by the Government at as early a date as possible”.

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When such a resolution is sent it becomes the duty of the Government to see the rates prevalent in this Province, and compare them with the rates of other provinces and also to compare them with those of 1945, earlier, between 1945 and partition and with those after the partition. We have to see what the Index figures were. Moreover how can we increase the rate in view of the promise of Government of India ?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is the hon. Premier not disclosing these facts ?

**Premier :** I have received such a resolution that the need to mention these facts does arise. It becomes my duty to say what action the Government is taking.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the Leader of the House not to disclose any facts ?

**Premier :** I would like to assure the House that the proposals of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee are being considered by the Government. Details from the Department are awaited. To say that the Government is not doing anything does not tally with facts. So far we have not received any Report regarding taxes from the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. For this the members of the Committee are responsible. Government should not be held responsible for this delay. Today is 17th March. The Committee has not so far completed and submitted the Report.

**An hon. Member :** Did you ask for the Report ?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What can the members of the Committee do if no replies to its queries are received from Government Departments for six months ?

**Premier :** If we look into the Budget Estimates of 1949-50, we will find that the Revenue Expenditure of 22,92 lakhs includes an expenditure of 8,30 lakhs on Relief and Rehabilitation. The expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation is not a normal expenditure. The hon. Finance Minister has also focussed the attention of the hon. Members on the fact that the whole amount of the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation is to be increased by the Central Government, who have already assumed liability for it. Thus according to these calculations our Budget is not a deficit Budget. On the other hand if we recover the whole amount of expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation from the Central Government, then our Budget would be a surplus Budget.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Including subventions.



**Premier :** There is no doubt about it that the Central Government have given us a subvention of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  crores. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar in particular that the economy of the province had been thrown completely out of gear owing to the partition and this has resulted in the deficit Budget of the Province. Thus I think hon. Members will subscribe to my view that the Government could not be held responsible for that. It will not be out of place to mention here that if like the united Punjab we had normal revenues, we would not have experienced deficit Budgets in the past. Hon. Members know it full well that we succeeded in wiping out the gap caused by the deficit in 1947-48 from the revenue of the province. This was all due to unsettled conditions in the province.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** On a point of information, Sir. Was it not better if we had only three Ministers in the Cabinet ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is no point of information.

**Premier :** Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Members that they should not try to make speeches by raising points of information in this House.

Further if we look into the deficits of the year 1948-49 and 1949-50, we will find a total deficit of Rs. 30 crores. Out of this amount of 30 crores, a sum of Rs. 20 crores and 73 lakhs was spent on Relief and Rehabilitation. I do not however deny the fact that the financial condition of our province is weak. If we probe into the details of the matter, we will find that Government has incurred expenditure on the rehabilitation of the refugees. This expenditure has been a great burden on the finances of the province. However, I cannot do without saying this that the East Punjab Government has done well in bearing the burden of this expenditure. I do not fight shy in making such a statement and I think our Government has done well.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** You happen to be a physician and a surgeon but you are at the same time a musician too.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. member cannot address the hon. Premier directly. He can ask through the chair.

**Premier :** It has been said that there are too many Parliamentary Secretaries in the province. It has also been complained that there is no justification whatsoever in continuing the services of the Financial Commissioners in the province comprising of 13 districts only. Perhaps my hon. Friends who hold this view think that partition of men should also have been made along with the partition of the province. It has also been

said as to why the services of Inspector-General of Prisons have been continued in this small province of 13 districts. Similar efforts have been made to prove that there was no justification in having more officers in the decreased area of this small province. It has also been asked why it was felt necessary to have as many as seven ministers in the province when there were only six ministers in the united Punjab. It has been suggested that there should be only three ministers in the Cabinet. Similarly some mention has been made about the Parliamentary Secretaries. I wish to bring the point home to the hon. Members holding this view that we should not take into consideration the number of the Ministers or the Parliamentary Secretaries. The only thing that is to be seen in this connection is this as to how much we spend on them. In the year 1945-46 in the united Punjab, a sum of Rs. 2,58,000 was spent on the salaries of the ministers, and a sum of Rs. 85,500 on the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries including my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** The hon. Premier should go on framing charges against me.

**Premier :** In 1946-47 Rs. 58,000 and Rs. 55,000 were spent on the salaries of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries respectively. In 1948-49 a sum of Rs. 1,32,000 and a sum of Rs. 22,400 were spent on the salaries and T. A. of the Ministers respectively. Again a sum of Rs. 66,000 has been spent on the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries. In 1949-50, Government has provided Rs. 1,53,000 and Rs. 61,800 in the Budget for the salaries of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries. I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that there has not been any reduction whatsoever in their allowances and that they have been drawing the same allowance of Rs. 300 which they used to draw before the partition in the united Punjab. Hon. Members know it full well that there has been a remarkable decrease in the salaries of both the hon. Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries. Further it has been said that the Parliamentary Secretaries in general and the Ministers in particular should not make their travelling allowances as a source of their profit. Sir, I wish to bring this point to their notice that their statement is not based on facts. I think I am right in saying this, and I beg to be excused for making the remark, that the hon. Members are themselves making their T. A. as a source of profit. It will not be out of place to mention here that the hon. Members who go to their respective places during off-days of the Assembly session, travel in 2nd or inter class and claim their T. A. for first class. (*Interruption*)

**Mr. Speaker :** I expect that such reflections are avoided.



**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** The hon. Premier was once crying from the house tops that a Minister should be paid Rs. 500 per month.

**Mr. Speaker:** No interruptions please.

**Premier:** Again, Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar has objected as to why the sale proceeds of 'nazul' land, amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs and fifty thousand, have been shown in the ordinary revenues. I may state for his information that though this item is a very small one, it has been included in the Extraordinary Receipts.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:** It is included in the revenues.

**Premier:** Of course, it is included but it makes no difference. Again, Sir, it would be unjust and improper to call us fools because we do not save anything out of the receipts but spend the whole amount. The Government is not a business concern. Why should it not invest all its receipts? Even some businessmen do like this and go on investing their earnings in business. How can then this Government, which has to finance beneficent Departments, hesitate to spend all its receipts or revenues?

It is undoubtedly true, Sir, that we can make up deficit in Budgets in three ways, viz. by subventions, by loans or by increasing the revenues of the province. So far as the the question of taking loans is concerned, I might tell the hon. Members that the Provincial Governments cannot take loans direct. Loans can be raised only by the Government of India and we can only apply to them for a share. As in many other matters in which a uniform policy throughout the country is considered desirable, so in the matter of subventions, the procedure that is followed is this. The Minister-in-charge of a particular department in the Central Government calls a meeting of the provincial Ministers-in-charge of that department and after holding consultation with each of them and examining the circumstances of each province, recommends the extent to which a particular province may be given financial help for a particular object. Well, Sir, my own view is that the Government of India must take responsibility for the deficit caused in our Budget owing to extraordinary expenditure that is directly due to the partition. It is their duty to help us and I am sure they will not deny it and would be prepared to give us as much financial aid as possible.

Sir, to-day I do not want to reply to the criticism levelled at the policy of the Government regarding relief and rehabilitation of refugees. I shall have much to say on this subject when that particular demand comes before the House for voting. But I cannot defer replying to what Chaudhri Sunder Singh has said about the treatment meted out

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to refugees at Batala. He has stated that while persuading the refugees to leave the camps and entrain, the policemen used harsh and improper words. If this is true, Sir, I apologize to those refugees who were ill-treated. If any public servant uses objectionable language or abuses any person he does not only insult him but he also disgraces us. (*cheers*). When complaints are received against such persons, they are brought to book. But I must remind Chaudhri Sahib that no one will be allowed to defy the law. People will have to respect the law and the decisions of the Government. We shall not protect the violators of law or those who would refuse to use objectionable language. The hon. Member himself instigated the people to disobey the orders of the Government and here he blames us for forcibly ejecting those people. It is not proper for him first to instigate the people to defy the Government and then blame it for using force. I can understand my friend's anxiety about their living in Batala Tehsil, so long as the new elections are not held. But if in criticizing the Government, all members are motivated by the desire to secure votes for themselves in the next elections and ensure their success in them, God alone can take care of this province. Such criticism can be of no use to the Government. This is only what I can say about it.

Another complaint which many people have against us is that in all our actions, we are guided by political considerations and that in a particular matter, we act in a particular manner with a view to ensuring our success in the next elections. On the other hand we are blamed for not acting according to the wishes of the Congress Committees, in spite of our being Congressmen. Now may I ask our critics how both of these charges can be correct? Again, there are critics who refer to the Gandhi Caps that we are wearing as '303 rifles'. I may tell them that this cap is no doubt a '303 rifle' but it is to be used only against those, who are out to cheat the people and deceive the Government. (*cheers*). In our eyes, it is the symbol of service. We regard those who wear it as the servants of the people.

We cannot help if people do not go through the Budget at all, and criticize for criticism's sake. All that the Government is doing or proposes to do, has been clearly set forth in the Budget. If only, the hon. Members take pains to look into it carefully, they would come to know of all the activities of the Government. I do not say that besides those who are in the Ministry, no one else can think out good schemes and plans. My hon. Friends are welcome to give us their suggestions and we would be grateful to them. There is no reason why we should not act upon the resolutions passed by the House. After all, nothing on this earth can be called perfect. Everything has its weaknesses. No human act can be entirely free from shortcomings. So it is

no use finding fault with everything that the Government does, nor should we be expected to waste our time in rebutting baseless allegations. So I would request the hon. Members of this House to make genuine criticism, after fully acquainting themselves with the facts. Some of my hon. Friends have complained that while some roads are being constructed others are not. I would ask them not to close their eyes to the circumstances in which this province is placed. Have the hon. Members forgotten the time when the problem of Hyderabad was foremost in the minds of every one of us and when every one wanted the Government of India to take action against Hyderabad as early as possible? Do they know what our engineers were doing at that time? I may tell them that they never sat idle. They were at that time busy looking after the roads near the border. It was with their help that such good arrangements for the defence of the border were made, as would have stood the test of any ordeal and would have proved capable of facing any eventuality.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Has the road from Pathankot to Jammu been completed?

**Premier :** I was going to submit, Sir, that the Defence Department of the Government of India could not have done much without the active co-operation of the East Punjab Government. I wonder why my sister does not make a speech instead of making suggestions by interrupting me. If she had made a speech, I would have replied to all questions that she might have asked. I may state for her information that we kept the road to Pathankot in good condition and we maintained law and order in those critical days when the Government of India was busy with Police action against Hyderabad. It is true that the road to Jammu was constructed by the Government of India but even in its construction they utilized the services of our engineers who were on deputation with them. Again it goes to the credit of our Public Works Department that within a short period, they succeeded in building about four thousand houses for the refugees.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Doctor Sahib, take care of yourself. You are going to have an attack of pleurasy.

**Premier :** Sir, really I cannot understand how my hon. Friend has all of a sudden become so solicitous about my health. Can I draw this inference that after having his say, he does not want me to reply to his criticism? I am talking in the same tone in which I used to talk during the Unionist regime in the United Punjab, but like my friend, I do not try to rake up memories of those days again and again. My hon. Friend has, however, changed. In the Unionist regime, even though he was

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opposed to any measure, he used to keep mum, as he had not the courage to speak. Now, of course, he seems to have regained his lost voice and talks vociferously. I am speaking in the same tone to which I am used and would continue to speak in this manner, so long as Almighty grants me the strength to do so.

Sir, it has been pointed out by some hon. Members during the debate that no adequate provision has been made in the budget for industrial activities. I will first take up the Capital outlay on Electricity Schemes as described on page 435 of the New Expenditure for the year 1949-50. You will find, Sir, that the total cost of main Distribution System (Electricity Branch) of Nangal Power Project for the year 1949-50 comes to Rs. 1,97,55,800, while the cost of works pertaining to Irrigation Branch comes to Rs. 3,60,45,800. The tools and plants would cost Rs. 90,000. The grand total of the various items of Nangal Power Project comes to Rs. 5,65,39,600.

Besides this, it is estimated that the ultimate cost of Khanna Electric Supply Scheme in the year 1949-50 would be about Rs. 7,50,000. One of the most important schemes of the Government is to establish new industrial colonies in East Punjab. Arrangements in this connection are also complete and these new industrial areas are being set up soon at Jullundur, Panipat, Sonapat, Bahadurgarh, Khanna, Jagadhri, Faridabad and some other stations. A large number of people have already submitted their applications to the Government for the grant of land in these industrial areas. Efforts are being made to bring electric power as early as possible to the industrial areas of Ludhiana and Jullundur though some delay might be caused in installing diesel power stations at Khanna for supply of electric energy for domestic and industrial purposes. The supply of electric energy will also be used for agricultural work. The Nangal Power Project will not only be utilised for industrial development but also for agricultural development.

Besides this, it will be observed that on pages from 201—227 of the new Expenditure, all Schemes of industrial development are classified under which the Travelling Demonstration Parties will tour in the provinces to give vocational training to artisans in order to fill the gap created by mass exodus of Muslims from the province. The total estimated cost of these Schemes would be Rs. 9,66,370. The expenditure on Industrial Rehabilitation is separate from this. Under this Scheme arrangements will be made to train as many people as possible in various crafts specially those which were predominantly manned by Muslims such as leather working, weaving, spinning, wool-spinning etc.



A sum of Rs. 70 lakhs was distributed in the various districts under the Refugees Grant and Loan Act to small traders and industrialists. Loans amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs and subsidies amounting to Rs. 1,10,000 were sanctioned under the State Aid to Industries Act. The amount provided for industrial rehabilitation is over 2 crores of rupees and this is a stupendous and record figure which has been set apart for industrial activities.

I will now advert to the criticism levelled against the Publicity Department, as expressed by hon. Members. I feel that there is a growing impression amongst the critics of the administration that large sums of money are being haphazardly spent on publicity department every year. But I know that there is ample justification for incurring this expenditure in order to maintain closest link between the Government and the people. It appears that the hon. Members have not cared to study the useful literature published by the Publicity Department. It will be recalled that during the recent Jaipur session our Publicity Department made contribution of publicity at high level. It distributed pamphlets amongst the members of the Congress Committee. The hon. Premier of the United Provinces Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant desired that the pamphlets may be supplied to every member of the U.P. Assembly. I can boldly say that whatever achievement we have made in the rehabilitation work is mainly due to the Publicity Department. The Department has published maps showing advancement in various spheres such as hospitals, industrial centres, Education and Panchayats. It distributes bulletins free of cost to all Members of the Assembly. Such bulletins indulge in giving prominence to such propaganda which is calculated to bring about unity and harmony amongst different sections of people. Their first consideration is to strengthen the ties between the Government and the people and to exhibit Government's achievements in its various activities. In fact no Government can run successfully without the Publicity Department. It is essential that people should know what the Government is doing. In spite of the fact that the Government issues literature for this purpose, some of my hon. Friends do not take the trouble of going through it. How can these gentlemen know what the Government is doing? I was submitting, Sir, that Shri Diwakar suggested more expenditure on publicity, so that the public might know what was being done for them.

Hon. Members have a right to criticise the Government, but I wish to make one request. There are very difficult times ahead of us in connection with our rehabilitation work. My hon. Friend Thakur Dalip Singh said that people should not be approached in Bapu's name. I wish to tell him through you, Sir, that every Member of this House should give his

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maximum help to the Government in carrying out its schemes for the benefit of the whole province. Those persons who wish to see peace reign in the province should not carry on propaganda that those who are in possession of more land than is due to them should not give it up. To whatever 'ism' such gentlemen may belong and even if they think that they committed a mistake in joining the Congress Party, it is their duty to stop carrying on such propaganda, as it is injurious not only to our province but to the interests of the whole country. It is not proper to ask people not to vacate the lands which they now possess. My hon. Friends are at liberty to criticise the method of allotment, but once a programme or policy is decided upon, no propaganda should be done for defiance of Government orders. If we fail to make allotment of land, the whole country will suffer. It is therefore our duty to avoid spreading of lawlessness. If somebody thinks that he can save the interest of his party by propagating defiance of law, I wish to make it clear that the Government will not tolerate it. I have no objection if you say that the land should be allotted to a particular class of persons. I concede your right to criticise the Government. When some decision, however, is arrived at, it is the duty of every hon. Member of this House to help the Government in carrying out its work in a peaceful manner. I wished to make this appeal to the House and hope that if I have offended any hon. member during the course of my speech, he will kindly excuse me.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On a point of personal explanation. Sir, During the course of his speech, the hon. Premier made one or two remarks about me. He said that when Sir Sikander Hyat Khan was the Premier of the Punjab, I did not possess the courage to say anything against the Government. I submit, Sir, that I was a member of his party. What about Doctor Sahib, who—

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should resume his seat.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I will resume my seat and submit to your order.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not only the question of submitting to my order, but when the Speaker is standing, you must resume your seat.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** But this Lala cannot threaten me like this.

**Mr. Speaker :** If you want to give some personal explanation, you must say so far as your person is concerned. You cannot make any attack on the other side.

**Minister (For Home and Revenue):** The hon. Member cannot address the Premier.



**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I was submitting, Sir, that under party discipline, I was not free to offer opposition. Now, I wish to tell you about Doctor Sahib.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot permit the hon. Member to say anything more.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** On a point of personal explanation. I was surprised at the remarks made by hon. Premier towards the close of his speech. He said that keeping some 'ism' in view, I was obstructing the Government (*Interruption*). I wish to submit, Sir, that I know how to speak and also how to stop others from speaking. Hon. Ministers should not try to silence me like this. I was submitting that what the hon. Premier said about me was incorrect and ill founded and it was a lie.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should withdraw the word 'lie' as it is unparliamentary.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** I withdraw the word 'lie' but challenge the hon. Premier to point out anything which I may have said against the Government to anybody, in private or in public. I am a supporter of this Government and desire that it should act in the right manner.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have asked the hon. Members not to give challenges in the House.

**Premier :** Is it personal explanation ?

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** If the Government does not give up nepotism, favouritism. . . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** I think whatever the hon. Member has said is sufficient.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** I never did anything against refugees as alleged by the hon. Premier.

**Premier :** Sir I never said that he was doing propaganda against the refugees.

**Minister for Labour :** (Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, after the hon. Premier's speech, my work has become light. I shall not refer to those things which the hon. Minister for Finance will have to lay before the House but shall confine myself to only three or four points.

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During the discussion of the Budget, some hon. Members have complained that it is a deficit Budget, while others have criticised the imposition of those taxes by which it has been attempted to balance it. Thakur Dalip Singh and Pandit Mohan Lal were amongst those who blamed the Government for levying new taxes. Sales tax and motor cess formed special target of attack. It has been said that these taxes would affect the poor people and had been imposed to cause them hardship. Sir, my hon. Friends who have criticised the taxation policy of this Government do not appear to have taken the trouble of studying the state of affairs in other provinces. I can without any fear of contradiction say that the Sales Tax which is to be levied in this province will be much smaller than the one that exists in other provinces. It is absolutely wrong to say that our taxation proposals in the form of Sales Tax and other taxes result in any great burden on the poorer classes of the population. But it is not possible to dispense with these taxes altogether as without any revenue receipts we cannot run the Government at all. However in comparison with other provinces of India I must say that the taxation here per head is almost negligible. The taxation in Bombay is Rs. 15, in Madras Rs. 7/8/-, in the Central Provinces Rs. 5 and in the United Provinces Rs. 8 against a tax of Rs. 1/12/- per head in this province, inclusive of land revenue which is usually not considered a tax. However if we include other taxes which are likely to be imposed from next financial year the tax per head comes to only Rs. 2/12/-. In the face of these facts he must be a bold man who says that our Government is troubling the poor unnecessarily. We are fully aware of the difficulties of the poor and it will be appreciated that articles generally consumed by the poor have been exempted from the provisions of the Sales Tax. Unlike Madras which is a very big province we have also exempted all eatables from Sales Tax. This clearly shows that taxation in our province is not so heavy and burdensome as it is in other provinces.

Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar was pleased to say that no attempt has been made on the part of the Government to increase the revenue receipts. Another hon. Member who spoke in English also hammered on the same point. But I may tell them that the main source of revenue for this Government is and has been Excise and Taxation and every attempt has been made to get as much out of this source as possible. I cannot go into details as the hon. Finance Minister has to speak after I have done and there is very little time at my disposal. But I am in a position to say that we have done our best to raise as much revenue as we could. We have done away with the old tradition of favouring dealers of foreign liquors which obtained during the British Rule. In the days of the old regime a sum of Rs. 1,75,000 was realised as licence fee but

under this Government this figure has shot up to Rs. 7,75,000. A dealer who had to pay a licence fee of Rs. 50/- only in the past is obliged to pay Rs. 250/- now. Unlike the British days a limit has now been placed on possession of bottles of foreign liquor by private individuals. In the past one could keep with him a dozen bottles of foreign liquor with impunity but nobody was allowed to keep more than one bottle of country wine. In the present regime when the possession of country liquor is banned as before, greater restrictions have been placed on keeping foreign liquor. Now no one can keep more than one bottle of foreign liquor ordinarily. In case somebody does, he has to pay to the Government a licence fee of Rs. 5/- for keeping three bottles going up to Rs. 20/- for 12 bottles. In this way higher fees have to be paid for keeping larger stocks. Considering all the facts it would be utterly incorrect for anybody to say that sufficient revenue has not been raised through Excise.

Sir, in addition to Excise, Government has augmented its income through property tax, tobacco vendors fee, motor spirit tax and entertainment duty tax. So far as the Department of Excise alone is concerned we are getting much greater revenue than it ever gave before. In the early days it yielded in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1,74,00,000 but now it gives us something like Rs. 2,55,00,000. I would therefore request hon. Members to study the Budget a little more carefully.

An hon. Friend referred to the hardships of the Harijans and said that the Government had done absolutely nothing for them. As the hon. Premier has already dealt with this question in his speech, I will not discuss it in any great detail. I shall only refer to one or two points in this connection. It has been said that the Harijan Welfare officers appointed by the Government are uneducated and therefore can render no useful service. They are said to know only Hindi and Gurmukhi and not English. It has also been said that the refugee Harijans in District Gurdaspur are in a very miserable condition. I would like to deal with the first point just now, that is the appointment of the Harijan welfare officers. Personally I do not consider a Gurmukhi or Hindi knowing gentleman to be inferior to one who knows English but in spite of it I may inform the hon. Member concerned that the Harijan welfare officers appointed by the Government possess the following qualifications :

B. A., LL. B.,	...	1
M. A.	...	1
B. A.	...	2
F. Sc.	...	1
Shastri, B. A.	...	1
Sidhant Shastri	...	1

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Giani	...	1
Hindi Rattan, Matric	...	1
Matric, Gyani	...	1
Matric	...	3

Sir, I dare to tell my hon. Friend that the Harijan welfare officers in question are better educated than he himself and are in a position to teach him for a pretty long time to come. Again, Sir, the same hon. Member has stated that the Government has not done anything for the Harijan refugees in Gurdaspur district. I want to assure the House through you, Sir, that the Government has done its best for the rehabilitation of Harijan refugees. It is absolutely wrong to say that the Government has given no grants and loans to the Harijan refugees in that district. This will be amply proved by the figures that I would now like to place before the House. The loans and grants given for various purposes to the Harijan refugees in Gurdaspur district are as under :—

	Rupees.
Food loans	98,198
Bullocks	4,005
Seed	22,638
Implements	5,460
Fodder	685
Loans for rural artisans	18,275
Grants for repair of Houses	21,846
Repair of wells	100
Total Expenditure	10,71,207

Apart from this expenditure, the Government has allotted an area of 6548 acres of land to those Harijan refugees who are engaged in agriculture. If, in spite of all these facts and figures, anybody says that the Government has not done anything for the Harijan refugees, he says so only to malign the Government and it proves nothing beyond that.

Again it has been said that the Government has not used the Harijan Welfare Fund. On the other hand, I am glad to say that the Government has increased that Fund from rupees 10 lakhs to 23 lakhs and instead of spending it in two or three years, it will be spread over ten years. Another friend has said that Mazhabi and Ramdasias Sikhs are not getting the same facilities as are being enjoyed by other Scheduled Castes. I would like to submit in this connection that our Government has not made any distinction or discrimination between the Hindu Harijans and the Sikh Harijans in this Province. Whatever educational and other facilities have been given to one class of Harijans have also been given to the other. If, however, my hon. Friend wants any

political rights for the Sikhs, he should approach the Central Government or the Constituent Assembly or the Minority Committee appointed for this purpose by the Constituent Assembly.

The greater part of to-day's discussion concerns the Finance Minister. I would, however, like to say a few words more. Although the hon. Premier has replied to a great extent regarding the criticism levelled against the Government, yet I want to say that the Government has earmarked no less than 4 crores and one lakh of rupees for the beneficent Departments. Out of this sum, Rs. one crore and 81 lakhs will be spent on education alone. In spite of the fact that ours is a poor province and a province of refugees, such a big sum has been set apart for education. This forms 42 per cent of the expenditure on beneficent Departments and 15 per cent of the total expenditure. As compared with this the United Provinces Government spends 12.4 per cent of total expenditure, on education. If in spite of all these facts and figures anybody says that the Government has not done anything for the Harijans or for the beneficent departments or that the sources of income have not been fully tapped, he has not perhaps taken the trouble to read and understand the Budget. They have criticised the Government for their own selfish ends and not for any constructive criticism.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) : Sir, I beg your pardon, at the very outset, for my inability to speak much louder to-day on account of my ill health.

**Hon. Members** : A bit louder, please.

**Mr. Speaker** : The trains at first always move slow.

**Minister for Finance** : If I were quite well to-day, I would have replied to the criticism of those hon. Members who have criticised the Budget leaving aside the considerations of justice and fairplay. As regards the Budget, I am thankful to all the newspapers of the Province, for giving healthy and sane criticism of the same. There is a marked change in the attitude of the Press towards the Government which had to face harsh criticism at times. But the Press changed its attitude with regard to the present Budget and it has written in commendation of the activities of the Government. This is one side of the picture.

The other side was witnessed on the floor of the House. This was done under the circumstances in which more importance was attached to politics rather than to economics. The Budget was criticised in the light of the prospects of important changes in the Province. I am, however, grateful to the hon. Members who have criticised the Government and have pointed out its mistakes and shortcomings. I personally,



[Minister for Finance]

and on behalf of the Government assure them that efforts shall be made to remove reasonable shortcomings and to meet the reasonable demands. But at the same time, I will be failing in my duty if I do not say that the standard of discussion on the Budget has been much lowered during these days. It would have been better if the standard set in my speech had been maintained and the speeches delivered on the floor of the House had been in conformity with the high dignity of this House. I am sorry to say that the hon. Members who said things in view of political rise and fall will think better after some time. Sir, it is matter of deep regret that an hon. Member, from whom I expected a constructive and wise criticism on my budget speech, has indulged in personal taunts. I refer to the speech of an ex-Finance Minister. Instead of basing his criticism on certain principles he tried to make me a target of ridicule. The words he used are below the dignity of a man like him and they do no honour to this House and to the Parliamentary traditions and conventions which are so very necessary for the proper working of democratic institutions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the words he used ?

**Minister for Finance :** I need not repeat them here. What I mean to impress upon my hon. Friends is that we should try to keep the standard of debates in this House at a higher level than at present. We are here not to find fault with each other but to leave behind graceful examples and precedents. To-day I am before the House as Finance Minister, tomorrow another may come, and day after there may be yet another change. Individuals come and go. This circle will move on like the beads of a rosary But precedents and conventions will remain. So only such standards of talk should be maintained here which in no way bring discredit upon the members individually and upon the House as a whole. Any word which tends to create a bad impression should be avoided as far as possible. It appears that in the course of his speech the old animosity, which sticks to the conscious and the sub-conscious mind of the hon. Member, revealed itself in the form of such words as he used.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Minister not to impute motives ?

**Minister for Finance :** It is my duty to give a suitable answer to what the hon. Member uttered in the House the other day. What he said strikes at the very root of democratic traditions. To-day I am in charge of the Finance Department. Any day there can be a change.



But so long as I am here it is my duty to point out that even critics must impose some restraint. I believe we should avoid setting bad examples. I learn that even outside this House there have been attempts at indulging in personal ridicule. An impression has been given to the people of the Province that the speech of the hon. Member was very friendly. I wish to remove this misunderstanding. My budget speech was criticized to such an extent that even the use of the word "I" for the Finance Minister was objected to. This minor matter has been needlessly given prominence. What is there in it after all? Did he not himself make use of this in his own budget speeches when he was Finance Minister? Even recently Dr. John Mathai employed this word in his speech. Heavens will not fall by the use of a particular word. Sir, it is a matter of great pain for me to point out that the standard of debates has come down to such low levels. This is not the way to make democracy a success in this province. A democratic form of structure rests upon convention and traditions and not upon personalities and individuals. So more attention should be paid in this direction.

Sir, it has also been stated on the floor of the House that the Finance Minister has no powers and that he has to do what the other ministers order him to do. I need not say anything about it because the hon. Premier has himself given an answer to this. He told the House that under modern democratic forms of Government the working of the cabinet differs from what it previously was. Now the Finance Minister wields a great influence—what he says counts with his colleagues.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Have the previous rules been modified?

**Minister for Finance :** There are many schemes which cannot go up without the sanction of the Finance Department. It is an important Department. During the last year it has shown a unique strength. Every matter is being decided on merits. There is no favour done to any one. That is why the Ministers have been thinking that I am a thorn in their side. I mean every scheme is accepted or rejected on its merit alone. In spite of all this, criticism has been levelled against this Department. I must say that it smacks of party politics and has no basis for it. I repeat Sir, that such a criticism is below the dignity of this House and those who indulge in it . . .

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Let the hon. Minister not bother himself about these matters. (*Interruptions*). 6 p.m.

**Minister for Finance :** I thought that the hon. Member wanted me to bury these things deep into the ground. It is really in the fitness of things to bury such things deep into the ground.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Now there are no Muslims here in this province ; how can these things be buried deep in the burial grounds ? (*Laughter*).

**Minister for Finance :** My hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar has made this allegation against me that I took pains to prove that the Budget that I introduced the other day, was not a deficit Budget. Further he observed that we should not fight shy of a deficit Budget in view of the circumstances in which the province was placed and also due to our province being very much backward. He further argued that it was not a big thing even to expect more deficit than the present one. Perhaps my hon. Friend, Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, who has himself worked as the Finance Minister of the United Punjab, knows it full well that if the East Punjab Government decides to raise a loan, it does so after taking complete stock of the financial condition of the province. In fact it is the bounden duty of the Government to keep all such things in view and work conscientiously. It is also the bounden duty of the Finance Minister to place a vivid picture of the financial position of the province before the public. He has also to work out all the figures and place them before the public after due scrutiny. In short it is his duty to keep all the figures of Revenue and Expenditure before the public and thus show a surplus or a deficit Budget whatever it be.

Now let us take the case of expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation. We expect sufficient amount from the Central Government to fill the gap caused by the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation of the refugees. I wish to point out for the information of the hon. Members that the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation is not the normal expenditure of the East Punjab Government. I really fail to understand how if the Finance Minister of the Central Government includes the sum of 8,30 lakhs in his Budget, it could be possible for us to maintain double accounts by providing the same amount in our Budget too ? It will not be out of place to mention here that the Central Government has already showed this amount along with the other amounts provided for other provinces for one and the same purpose, in their deficit Budget. So far as this amount is concerned, we get this amount direct from the Centre and spend it on the relief and the rehabilitation of the refugees. What the legal opinion about this can be, I cannot say. But I can say this much that the Central Government is morally responsible to rehabilitate our refugee brothers. In the circumstances, it is the Central Government and not the East Punjab Government which has to incur this expenditure. However I wish to make this point clear and this is an honest statement of facts, that the Budget of the East Punjab Government is in no way a deficit Budget. Those of my hon. Friends who want to show an expenditure of Rs. 8,30 lakhs on Relief

and Rehabilitation in the revenue expenditure without bearing this fact in view that the same amount would be recovered from the Central Government, are really doing a great disservice to our country in general and our province in particular. Perhaps they do not seem to know anything about the public finances. It is after duly scrutinizing the revenue receipts and the revenue expenditure that I placed all the facts and figures before the public and I venture to submit that the inherent state of our finances is, to say the least, not unsound. So far as the Relief and Rehabilitation problem is concerned, I wish to point out for the information of the hon. Members that this problem is a temporary one and that it is not going to be a permanent feature of the revenues of the province. In the circumstances, it does not behove well on the part of some of my hon. Friends to say that the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation, as already referred to by me, is to be incurred by us and that the people of our province are faced with a huge deficit. There is no doubt about it that the undertaking of certain development schemes would have definitely resulted in a deficit Budget. We had at the same time to keep the inflationary tendencies in view, which could have very easily come into the light through an unbalanced Budget. Hence due care had to be taken. There are no two opinions on this point that there ought to have been a surplus Budget. But keeping the conditions in view which were prevailing here in this province, namely the economic upheaval and such other factors which were responsible for giving a death-blow to the economic life of the people of the province, it was not possible to produce a surplus Budget. In fact it would not matter if we had a deficit Budget because huge amounts had to be spent in restoring normal economic conditions in the province. There is no doubt about it that such a deficit Budget has a far reaching effect on the finances of the province. If, for argument sake, we had a surplus Budget in the province, our province would have been the object of all praises and appreciation from every part of the world. Our Central Government would have been highly impressed if our Government had shown a surplus Budget. But let us not forget the conditions which were and are prevailing here in the province. It will not be out of place to mention here that the financial condition of the province was most unsatisfactory. Very recently I had been to Delhi where I happened to meet a high official of the Government of India who also happens to be a financial expert. He told me that the province of the East Punjab has been ruined. But at the same time he was of the opinion that the figures in the Budget go to prove that the future of this post-partitioned province of East Punjab seems to be very bright. (*Hear, Hear*). It really ill-behoves my hon. Friends to say that this Budget is only a routine Budget. However let me make this point clear in this House that in this

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newly carved-out province of East Punjab, where people have experienced an economic upheaval, our normal expenditure is equal to our normal revenue and this goes to the credit of the East Punjab. (*Hear Hear*). I would, however, like to focus the attention of hon. Members on this fact that we have to plead the cause of those of our brethren who have gone outside this province and whom we want to return. It is our bounden duty to call them back. We should not mind if we may have to go to the extent of raising loans for this purpose. I really fail to understand the reasons why obstacles are being put in the way of our doing some substantial work in this direction. We want to recall those uprooted brethren of ours who were big capitalists, traders and businessmen in the united Punjab and who have gone to other provinces. They have some money left with them. They could not start their business here and they were forced by circumstances to leave this province for Delhi, United Provinces, Central Provinces and other provinces and States. We have to call them here and we have to approach them with the request that a new East Punjab has been formed. I would like to remind to those hon. Members who are creating obstacles in the way of the Government, I am sure they are doing a great injustice to their province.

Sir, I have to point out with great regret that my hon. Friends here have made certain remarks and said certain things, which they ought not to have said, if the interests of the province were really dear to their hearts. If they had asked me before making their speeches, I would have gladly pointed out to them the weak spots and the shortcomings of the Budget. I am afraid, their dwelling on certain things in their speeches might prove detrimental to the interests of the province. It is keeping this in view, that I emphasize that whatever objections the hon. Members of the House might have to any measure and whatever their views about it, they should not at least try to harm the interests of the province as a whole.

I have another regret, Sir. I had hoped that some good suggestions would be made by my hon. Friends here so that Government would benefit from them but I have to say with great regret that instead of making any such suggestions, emphasis has been laid by them on wrong things and their criticism has been so misdirected that it is not calculated to do any good to this province. I have to point out with regret that not a single solid suggestion has been made by any hon. Member of the House for increasing the revenues of the province. The Press has also referred to this thing in its comments on the general discussion of the



Budget. It has been rightly pointed out that the Budget discussion was conspicuous by the lack of any constructive suggestions in it.

Sir, the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has no doubt made certain recommendations for increasing the revenues of the province. They are under the active consideration of the Government; but, Sir, it will be appreciated that the question of levying new taxation has its own problems and it is only after fully deliberating the matter and consulting its financial experts that the Government can take decision in any such matter. The Government has to view the matter from all its aspects before taking a final decision. Certain proposals are under the consideration of the Government. I have already hinted at these in my Budget speech. But, Sir, I wanted and expected of the hon. Members of this House, who seem to be so conscious of the poor financial condition of their province, to make some solid proposals for improving the finances of the province. My hon. Friend, Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, has in his speech given only one such suggestion. He has suggested that the allowance of the Parliamentary Secretaries for which a provision of Rs. ten thousand has been made, should be stopped. I have no desire to express my personal view about this matter. What I want to ask is, would the exclusion of this item, which is like a drop in the ocean, make the financial structure of this province more sound? My Friend took pains for more than an hour to expose the shortcomings of the Budget but the only suggestion that he made for improving this Budget, involving crores of rupees, is that this provision of rupees ten thousand be deleted. We had hoped that my hon. Friend would on the basis of his knowledge of financial matters and past experience give us some useful suggestions by which the Government would benefit. But all that he has suggested is that if this item of expenditure, involving Rs. 10,000/-/- is deleted, the Budget would be all right. (*Laughter*). (*Interruption*). Sir, while I am speaking on a very serious subject and warning my hon. Friends who are the Members of this House about the condition of this province, it does not behove them to interrupt me and pass remarks on me. While my friends were eloquent over the merits of democratic system of Government as it exists in England and want that we would emulate its parliamentary conventions, they do not care how they themselves behave.

There is one thing more, Sir, on which I would like to say something. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish has just delivered a speech, which appeared to me to be an inspired one.

**Mr. Speaker:** No motives, please.

**Minister for Finance:** I do not know where he gets his information from, but he has stated something, which no other member of the House has had the credit of saying. For instance, he has cast reflections on the

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efficiency and the integrity of the Finance Department, which no other hon. Member has done. No Finance Minister and no Government can bear it. I can assure my hon. Friend that our Finance Department is by far superior to the Finance Department of the United Punjab and is functioning in a more efficient manner. In criticising the Finance Department my hon. Friend might have been actuated by some other reason, because I am sure no one can think of criticising it on the ground of inefficiency or call in question its integrity. My Friend is most welcome to criticise us, to criticise the activities of the Government, but it is not proper for him to drag those people here, whose integrity is unimpeachable and who are always above all party politics. To make them a football in the game of politics is, to say the least, undesirable. (*Cheers*). My Friend has alleged that the Finance Department is inefficient and that its strength is more than what it was in the United Punjab. I deny both of these allegations. There is no truth in the statement that the staff has been increased. But supposing for a moment that the staff has been increased by one or two persons, how far is my hon. Friend justified in presuming that since the East Punjab is only a small fragment of the old United Punjab, the work has diminished? Is not the machinery of the Government the same? On the other hand, Sir, I can prove that the work of the Government has rather increased considerably as a result of the partition. We are busy implementing numerous schemes with a view to solving the problems which never existed in the United Punjab. We are constructing such huge projects as Bhakra and Nangal, which are now on their way to completion. We, therefore, require the services of financial experts to guide us. Take the Department of Rehabilitation, which never existed in the United Punjab. A financial expert has been specially appointed to supervise the work of this Department. Sir, what I mean to say is that the work has increased considerably and it is no use repeating again and again that the staff of a particular Department has been increased. In view of these facts, I think, it is unjust to blame me for not effecting reduction in expenditure by retrenching the staff of a particular Department, and to cast reflection on anyone for this reason is absolutely uncalled for. If my hon. Friend had talked to me about this matter before bringing it in the House, I am sure he would not have felt the necessity of making such remarks in his speech.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Sir, I said nothing of the sort. He is misinterpreting me.

**Minister of Finance:** Now, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice another matter of great importance. I am glad to say that my sister Shrimati Sita Devi made some solid suggestions for reducing the expenditure. In her speech, she has asked why reduction is not effected in the salaries of those officers who are drawing rupees three thousand and more



per mensem. I have formed my own view about this. A right policy of the Government with regard to the pay scales of Government servants should come before the public. I perfectly agree with the hon. Members that there is need for cutting down all unnecessary expenditure on the establishment and that the East Punjab can hardly afford to have a top-heavy administration. But we have to consider whether it is practicable to apply cuts in the salaries of Government servants. Some of my hon. Friends have gone to the length of making suggestions to cut down expenditure on such items over which our Government has no control. So far as the question of lowering down the scales of pay of Government servants is concerned, I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the fact that the scales of pay in the departments of Government of India are attractive. There is a wide disparity in the grades of Government of India and those of East Punjab Government and the former provide definite allurements for the talent. Now the problem is how the East Punjab Government can attract intelligentsia into its services if the salaries were reduced. Young men of ability make strenuous efforts to get into the departments of Government of India as its conditions and terms of service look dazzling in their eyes. Our Government has also to strive for the maintenance and improvement of efficiency in services. If we have to aim at social regeneration of our province, we can hardly reconcile ourselves to the principle of applying axe to the salaries in Government services. Whereas it is easier to hold the Government guilty of top heavy expenditure by making vigorous speeches on the floor of this House, it is also not well to underestimate the difficulties attendant on enforcing such measures. I would say that unless some uniformity is established between the Government of India and the East Punjab Government, the problem of lowering down the salaries cannot be successfully tackled. Sir, I have frankly laid before you the exact position and as the matter is a complicated one, it has to be fully examined and decided upon after proper deliberation. As you are all aware, the Central Government has set up an Economy Committee and so long as its decisions do not come up before us, it is difficult to say whether its proposals are confined to the general expenditure or they touch upon the establishment side as well. I have, Sir, made the whole position clear and have also stated the circumstances which could be conducive to enforcing economy measures on the Establishment. The Socialists or Communists often propagate their ideology of equality of income, but they must know that the disparity of salaries is to be found even in greater form in Russia. Stalin had once remarked that the equality of income is the enemy of Socialism. It is easier to blame the Government for the meagre salaries in the ranks of peons and to oppose the glaring disparity in salaries in Government services, but

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may I enquire of these people whether the equality in the matter of salary prevails also in their homes? They would like] to fortify their own position by augmenting their income but they would grudge giving a living wage to their domestic servants. I would, therefore, say that it does not behove them to level sharp criticism on the Government if there is disparity in the salaries in Government services. To cap it all, my hon. Friends will fully agree with me that to break the vice of disparity in salaries we will have to re-organise the whole structure of the Government and also to change basically the pattern of society. The slogan raised by my hon. Friends that the Government suck the blood of its poorly paid employees is a false one.

Now I advert to industries. I am thankful to the hon. Premier for putting before the House a few salient features of the industrial activity which we witness to-day in the province. I fail to understand how the hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar has jumped to the conclusion that there is no increase in the Budget provision for industries. It will be evident from the Memorandum that last year the provision was made to the extent of 22½ lakhs of rupees while this year the amount has been raised to 24½ lakhs. The increase in the activities of the Industries Department is evident from the figures of the Budget (Ordinary and Rehabilitation) of this Department. The amount provided on this account is over 2 crores of rupees and this is a stupendous record figure which so far no provincial Government has set apart for industrial activities. The Government has rendered sufficient help to the sports industry and has advanced loans to such industrialists. The sports industry is flourishing in Jullundur and I hope that with the co-operation of Central Government, Jullundur will become the Sialkot of the East Punjab. In the end, I thank the hon. Member for hearing my views patiently.

2 P.M.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Friday, 18th March 1949.*

# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Friday, 18th March 1949*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P.M. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### PAY OF H.V.Cs OF DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENTS

**\*589. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the H.V.Cs. of District establishments have recently represented to the Government for increase in their pay ; if so, with what result ;
- (b) whether the pay of H.V.Cs. was not increased last time when the pay of other District Establishment was revised, if so the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) A representation was made in the months of March and June last year but Government was unable to revise the scales of pay.
- (b) First part : Yes.

Second part : It was not an opportune time to consider the question in view of the lean finances of the Province.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the scales of other district establishments have been revised ?

**Premier :** I require notice for that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Notice is already there if the hon. Premier would kindly refer to part (b) of the question.

**Premier :** I have given my reply to that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What about those whose scales have not been revised ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member may kindly give notice.

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**ALLEGATIONS OF BLACK MARKETING AGAINST A WHOLESALE DEALER OF SIMLA.**

**\*591. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the President, Piece Goods Merchants Association, Simla, made a representation to the Director-General, Civil Supplies, some time back and also to hon. Premier recently that a wholesale dealer of Simla has indulged in is carrying on black market and other illegal practices; if so, with what results;
- (b) whether any enquiry is being held by the Deputy Commissioner, Simla, in this behalf:

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

- (a) Yes; the matter is under enquiry and the result would be communicated to the hon. Member, if he so desires.
- (b) Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When was this complaint made ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the hon. Premier aware that on the 17th of July, 1948, the President of the Piece Goods Merchants Association made a complaint to the Director General, Civil Supplies?

**Premier :** On the 26th January, a letter was received from the Government of India (from Mr. Sen) in which a reference was made about this complaint. We have asked the Deputy Commissioner to make the necessary enquiries. His report is awaited and as soon as the report is received action will be taken accordingly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that on the 20th October, 1948, the President of the Piece Goods Merchants Association, Simla wrote a registered letter to the Premier ?

**Premier :** Many representations are received by me and I pass them on to the departments concerned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did the hon. Premier receive any such representation ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member will appreciate that I cannot remember all the representations that I receive.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I refresh his memory by telling him.....

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot give any information. The hon. Premier has told him that an enquiry has been instituted and the results of that enquiry will be communicated to the hon. Member. There the matter ends.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** A year and a half have elapsed and nothing has yet come out of the enquiry.

**Mr. Speaker :** The matter will be expedited.

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#### ENQUIRY AGAINST A BIG OFFICIAL AT AMBALA.

**\*594. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the stage at which the enquiry against a highly placed officer of this Province recently posted at Ambala stands ;
- (b) how much time it will take to reach any decision in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

(a) It is not in the public interest to give a reply to this part of the question.

(b) It is not possible to forecast this at present.

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#### EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT ON MINISTERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TRAVELLING BY AIR.

**\*608. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any rules have been framed by the Government regarding the Travelling allowance to the Ministers and other Government officers travelling by Air ; if so, the details of rates fixed for the purpose ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (b) the number of seats provided in each of the aeroplanes purchased by the Government for use of the Minister ;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on petrol and other oils per mile for journey in a single aeroplane ;
- (d) the monthly expenditure incurred by the Government for maintenance of each of the aeroplanes purchased and also on the staff employed for each one of them respectively ;
- (e) the travelling allowance charged per mile per aeroplane by the Minister ;
- (f) total number of miles travelled by each of the hon. Ministers by air from 1-4-48 to 31-12-48 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a) Yes. For a journey by air by public Air Transport Companies, mileage allowance equal to one and one third of the standard air fare is allowed. When, however, return tickets at reduced rates are available they are to be purchased. The total mileage allowance admissible for the forward and return journey when such return tickets are available is the actual cost of the return ticket plus two-third of the standard air fare for a single journey between the two places. It has since been decided to reduce the mileage allowance to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  for a single journey ticket and to the actual cost of return journey ticket plus half of standard air fare for a single journey between the two places. When however, a Government servant is allowed free transit by air in a Government machine or in a machine chartered by Government for the purpose he is entitled to travelling allowance as follows :—

- (a) If he has not to provide separate conveyance at his own expense for his servants or luggage he may draw the daily allowance of his grade and may not exchange it for mileage allowance. If, however, part of the journey is made by other means of locomotion he may at his option draw in lieu of daily allowance, the mileage allowance admissible for that part.
- (b) If he has to provide separate conveyance at his own expense for his servants or luggage, he may—
  - (i) if the journey is between places connected by rail or steamer, draw two-third of a fare of the class of accommodation to which he is entitled by railway or steamer, or



- (ii) if the journey is between places not connected by rail or steamer draw the daily allowance of his grade or half of the mileage allowance calculated for the journey.

If, however, a part of the journey is performed by other means of locomotion, he may in addition to the allowance admissible under sub-clause (i) or (ii) above draw the mileage allowance admissible for that part subject to the conditions laid down in sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of rule 2.65 of the Travelling Allowance Rules.

(b) Each of the two aeroplanes purchased by Government has four seats inclusive of pilot.

(c) The expenditure incurred on petrol and other oils varies according to prevailing winds between two and three annas per mile.

(d) Both the aircrafts are maintained and served by N. I. Flying Club, Jullundur, on payment of a fixed monthly sum of Rs. 2,000/- exclusive of the cost of petrol and oils. There is no separate staff employed by Government for this purpose.

(e) No travelling allowance is charged by the hon. Ministers on account of journeys performed by aeroplanes.

(f) The statement below gives the required information. The Government aeroplanes came into use during December 1948 only.

	Miles.
H. PM.	335
H. M. H. R.	Nil
H. M. P. W.	260
H. M. R. R.	Nil
H. M. D.	Nil
H. M. L. E.	Nil
H. M. F.	Nil

As regards the journeys performed by air in planes other than Government planes, accurate information, it is regretted, is not available.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** From the reply I find that the aeroplanes were used only during the month of December and a journey of 335 miles was performed and for that the Government had to incur Rs. 2,000/- on account of establishment charges exclusive of petrol etc. May I know where is the necessity to spend so much ?

**Premier :** I am thankful to the hon. Member for making this suggestion which will be considered.

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STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGE LUDHIANA  
PUNISHED IN 1948.

**\*612. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) the names of the students of Government College, Ludhiana, their father's names, and their home addresses who were awarded punishment to during 1948 ;
- (b) the nature of the offences committed by each of the students mentioned above ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) & (b). A statement is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>.

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CLOSING OF ROADS, PUBLIC PARKS ETC., TO PUBLIC DURING  
GOVERNOR'S TOURS.

**\*687. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that roads, public parks, and railway platforms, at certain places in the Province were closed to the public during the Governor's recent tours ;
- (b) whether he is aware that there was great resentment amongst the public on account of these restrictions ;
- (c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above is in the affirmative the steps that the Government propose taking to avoid causing such resentment by the public in future ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Roads, public parks or railway platforms were not closed to the public during the Governor's recent tours. Certain restrictions, however, were placed in order to facilitate movement of persons and traffic on these occasions.
- (b) Government is aware that there was some criticism in newspapers in respect of this matter.

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1. Kept in the Library,

- (c) Government is re-examining the question of the arrangements regarding traffic etc. on these occasions.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know whether all these restrictions are applied for fear of danger to the life of the Governor or as a matter of prestige only?

**Minister :** For both the reasons.

**Shri Virendra :** For how long will these restrictions continue?

**Minister :** I have already replied that the matter is under consideration.

**Shri Virendra :** When will it be decided?

**Minister :** As early as possible.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is there any danger to the life of the Governor even when India is free?

**Minister :** There is always a danger to the lives of those who hold responsible positions. Only recently when the Deputy Prime Minister of India came to the province, we had to make necessary arrangements for his safety.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is there any danger to the life of the head of a popular Government?

**Minister :** Popular Governments have sometimes to do unpopular things.

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#### PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

**\*688. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and names of the Parliamentary Secretaries and the Parliamentary Private Secretaries;
- (b) the present pay which each of them is drawing;
- (c) the duties and functions which have been assigned to each of them;
- (d) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each one of them since his appointment as such?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a), (b) and (d) : A statement is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

(c) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of Starred Assembly Question No. 387 put on 21—10—48.<sup>2</sup>

**Shri Virendra :** Has there been any change in the functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries since the last session of the Assembly ?

**Premier :** My reply is there. The hon. Member can refer to it.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that the Parliamentary Secretaries were turned out of Simla because they had nothing to do here ?

**Premier :** This is not true.

**Shri Virendra :** Have they not been asked to go to their headquarters ?

**Premier :** Their headquarters have been changed, but that does not mean that they had nothing to do here at Simla.

**Shri Virendra :** Have their headquarters been changed because they could work in Simla all right during summer and not in winter ?

**Premier :** The change was considered better and it was effected.

**Shri Virendra :** Was the change effected because they could not stand the cold of Simla during winter months ?

**Premier :** That is a matter of opinion.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What work are the Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries doing at their headquarters ?

**Premier :** I replied to that question during the last session of the Assembly.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Are they provided with any office accommodation where they can sit and work ?

**Premier :** Yes.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Premier aware that the

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1. Kept in the Library.

2. P. 138 *Supra*.

Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries sit on the benches outside the rooms ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member might be knowing better than I do. As far as I am aware office accommodation has been provided to them.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** What private work are the Parliamentary Private Secretaries doing? (*Laughter*)

**Premier :** I have already stated that I gave a reply to a similar question during the last session of the Assembly and the hon. Member may refer to it. I may, however add that his purpose will not be served by asking sarcastic questions.

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**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is it not a fact that the Parliamentary Secretaries except answering a few questions during the session of the Assembly have nothing else to do ?

**Premier :** I have already answered this question.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What work do they do after the session of Assembly ?

**Premier :** I replied in detail to all these questions in the last session.

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## LIBELLOUS POSTERS AGAINST HON. JUSTICE

ACHHRU RAM

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**\*694. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that posters have recently been circulated containing very objectionable and libellous matter against hon. Justice Achhru Ram of High Court ;
- (b) Whether the persons whose names are given as signatories in this poster are the persons responsible for its issue, if so, the action taken against them ;
- (c) Whether Government has reports of speeches delivered by some prominent Akali leaders against hon. Justice Achhru

Ram at a conference of the Akalis at Garh Diwal in December last ;

- (d) Whether Government has instituted any enquiry into this matter and if so, with what result ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Persons whose names are shown as signatories to the posters were questioned but have denied having issued them. The matter is being investigated.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The speeches are being examined. On a similar speech delivered at Patti, action under the P. P. S. A. is being taken against one of the speakers.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** In part (b) of his reply the hon. Minister has stated that the matter is under investigation; may I know who is investigating ?

**Minister :** The matter is being investigated through the investigating agency.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Which is the investigating agency ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member is a lawyer and I have no intention to enlighten him on this point.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** It was about three months ago that this mischievous poster against an hon. Judge of the High Court was published but still the Government has not been able to find out the persons responsible for it, how long more will it take for investigations to complete ?

**Minister :** Such propaganda against an hon. Judge of the High Court is highly despicable but it will be appreciated that no action can be taken against an individual without an adequate and proper proof.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Have the persons whose names appear on the poster been questioned ?

**Minister :** All these persons were questioned but they have not stuck to the contents of the poster. But we have not accepted their word and the matter is still under investigation.



**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any action been taken against the presswala who printed this poster ?

**Minister :** The difficulty is that the name of the press does not appear on the poster. Had we known the name of the press, action would certainly have been taken. We have also decided that the High Court may be moved to take contempt proceedings against the persons whose names appear on the poster.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** In view of the fact that the allegations in the poster were of a communal nature did, not the Government think it necessary and advisable to round them up in the same way in which R. S. S. people were rounded up ?

**Minister :** Round whom ?

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Persons whose names appear on the poster.

**Minister :** I have already stated that all those persons have denied any connection with the poster but we have not accepted that and the matter is being further investigated.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Was not detention thought necessary in their case ?

**Minister :** It would not be advisable to do so. Supposing a person publishes a poster over the name of Mr. Kaushish we would not be justified in arresting Mr. Kaushish simply because his name is on the poster.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Do all the signatories deny their connection with the poster ?

**Minister :** Yes. All have been questioned but no one accepts the responsibility.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received any complaint that the district officers of Hoshiarpur are involved in the printing of such a poster ?

**Minister :** This question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the reason that the police has not been able to unearth the culprits ?

**Premier :** Because the persons who published the poster happened

to be very clever.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are they more clever than the Government itself ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** In view of the fact that the C. I. D. has not proved very efficient in finding out the persons responsible for the poster, is it not considered desirable to entrust this work to some other agency ?

**Minister :** I strongly refute the allegation that the C. I. D. is incompetent and cannot investigate this case. Investigations made so far are extremely satisfactory but the indications are that the poster was not printed in this province. The charge of incompetence levelled against the C. I. D. is unfounded. Our C. I. D. has been giving all informations to us, sometimes against some of the Members also.

#### REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

\*695. **Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the grades of pay of all the Departments of the Government of the undivided Punjab were revised vide Memo. No. 564-FD-46/4088 dated 23-2-46 from the Punjab Government ; if so, the reasons why Classical and Vernacular Section of teachers of the Education Department was made an exception ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** It is correct that the grades of pay of all the Departments of the Punjab Government were revised with effect from 1-11-1945. In regard to the scales of pay of the Classical and Vernacular Section of teachers of the Education Department, the position is that these were revised and fixed as under with effect from 1-10-1942 :—

Class I—	Rs. 140—10—190
Class II—	Rs. 105—7—140
Class III—	Rs. 40-3-70/2 years-3-85/4-105

On the receipt of representations from the teachers, however, the question was again taken up and the scales were further improved with effect from 1-4-1946 as under :—

Class I—	Rs. 140—10—220
Class II—	Rs. 105—7—140
Class III—	Rs. 50—3—80/4—100

In the light of the revision made in April 1946, it is not correct to say that the case of the Classical and Vernacular Teachers was made an exception.

#### GIRLS SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.

**\*709 Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Government Middle and High Schools for girls in the Province ;

(b) the number of such schools in the rural areas of the Province.

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a) & (b). The hon. Member is referred to the list of Government educational institutions in the East Punjab corrected up to the 1st June, 1948, a copy of which is placed on the table<sup>1</sup>.

#### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE CHILDREN OF SOLDIERS

**\*710. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides any facilities by way of scholarships or concessions in fees towards the education upto Matriculation of children of the Soldiers below the rank of Commissioned Officers and especially of those who have been on the fighting fronts and have poor means of subsistence ;

(b) whether any special scholarships are provided for the education of children of rural areas ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a) The Government has revised the Scheme in providing educational facilities to the children of soldiers on the proposals made by the Central Government.

(1) No new application is to be entertained after 1-10-1948. Those students who are already in receipt of the scholarships

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(1) Kept in the Library.

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava]

will continue to get them until the completion of the course they are going through, e.g. Middle, High, etc.

- (2) The scholarships and fee concessions granted to the children and dependents of Defence Personnel, who have been killed or incapacitated as a result of War service will, however, be continued until their education upto the B. A. degree or their training in the professional institutions is completed.
- (3) Fee concessions granted to the children and dependents of other Defence Service Personnel upto the 8th class have been withdrawn with effect from the beginning of the next school year. The students already enjoying these concessions will, however, continue to enjoy them till the end of their Middle School Course.

Besides there is another Scheme known as Post-War Reconstruction Scheme out of which children of non-commissioned officers can get scholarships.

(b) No scholarships are provided for the education of children of *rural areas* as such, but there are a large number of scholarships reserved for children of Agriculturists, Zamindars and cultivators.

#### EXCLUSION OF OTHER THAN REFUGEE TEACHERS IN DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS.

**\*756. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued by the Government to the District Inspectors of Schools that no teachers other than refugees be employed in the District Board Schools of the Province for the next two years, if so, on what date?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

Yes, these instructions were issued in January, 1948, but they did not relate exclusively to teachers but to all those who sought employment under Local Bodies. These instructions were, subsequently, amended so as to permit the appointment of non-refugees or refugees from other places in case suitable refugees from West Punjab were not available. These instructions are being further amended and recruitment to Local Body Service will be at the ratio of 25% from among the refugee Local Body Teachers from West Punjab. 25% from among the refugee or non-refugee Local Body Teachers from places other than the West Punjab and the remaining 50% vacancies will remain unreserved.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** When were the last instructions fixing the ratio issued ?

**Premier :** I can not tell this off hand. If the hon. Member wants this information he may give notice of a fresh question.

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### DISCONTINUANCE OF URDU IN SCHOOLS

**\*757. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state,

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government have passed orders for the immediate discontinuance of Urdu in all the Government, District Board and other Government-aided schools in the Province ;
- (b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the hon. Minister would lay a copy of the same on the Table of the House ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A copy of circular No. 11896-X, dated the 9th June, 1948 on the subject, issued by the Director of Public Instruction, East Punjab, is laid on the table.

**To**

**The Divisional Inspectors and Inspectresses of schools  
in the East Punjab.**

*C. M. No. 11896-X, dated the 9th June, 1948.*

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**Subject :—**Medium of instruction in the Primary schools.

The Government of East Punjab have decided that the medium of instruction in the primary schools in the East Punjab will be the mother tongue of the pupils.

The Heads of these institutions should be informed of the decision of Government in this respect and instructed to impart education through the medium of the mother tongue of the pupils.

The script to be used will be either Devnagari or Gurmukhi in the first two classes. The school which adopts the Devnagari script in the first two classes, will introduce the teaching of the Gurmukhi script as additional script from the 3rd class and Vice versa.

These scripts should be introduced in all schools in the first and 2nd class immediately or with effect from the new academic year as convenient in place of Urdu, and the teachers should be instructed to learn both Hindi and Punjabi adequately before the beginning of the new term.

Sd. Harish Chandra.

Inspector of Training Institutions, for Director of  
Public Instruction, East Punjab.

### RE-EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICIALS RETIRED FROM SERVICE.

**\*771. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) The total number of such retired officials who have been re-employed by the Government ;
- (b) The reasons therefor ?

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Only thirty six officers who were re-employed are still in the service of Government. The time and labour involved in the collection of statistics in regard to all retired officials, who were re-employed under various departments including the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation for very short periods and time in the immediate post-partition period and during an emergency, will not be commensurate with the results that will be achieved.
- (b) These officers were re-employed for the following reasons :
  - (1) Shortage of trained and experienced men owing to the requirements of the Departments of Relief and Rehabilitation and Civil Supplies, pending where necessary, recruitment of officers through the Public Services Commission.
  - (2) Shortage of qualified and experienced technical men in certain departments and non-availability of such men from among displaced persons from West Punjab, pending, where necessary recruitment by the Public Services Commission.
  - (3) Inadvisability of appointing youngmen as a temporary measure for a few months only in vacancies, which have got to be filled as a result of a competitive examination or through the Public Services Commission.



**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether all these 36 officers are yet in service or services of some of them have been dispensed with ?

**Premier :** These 36 officers are those who were re-employed and are still in service.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that out of these 36 officers, the past record of certain officers has been so reactionary and anti-national, that even under the British regime people were vehemently against them and yet under Free India, they are being tolerated by our Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is expressing an opinion.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Premier aware that out of these 36 re-employed officers some of them had indulged in anti-Indian activities ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** It is difficult to locate a person whom the hon. Member is referring to by insinuation. His query can be answered only if he gives specific names.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if when Diwan Hukum Chand was re-employed, his past record was scrutinised ?

**Premier :** Yes. It was thoroughly examined. So far it as relates to his service, it is spotless. He has been one of the most honest and efficient officers. The people of Fazilka, where he was posted, reported that he had rendered every help to them.

#### CLOTH DEPOTS IN TEHSIL JULLUNDUR.

**\*781. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of cloth depots in Jullundur Tehsil that have started functioning ;
- (b) the number of depots that are yet to function ;
- (c) the total number of ration cards issued in Thana Adampur together with the number of depots opened there ;
- (d) whether there is any Bhogpur circle in Thana Kartarpur ; if so, the number of villages it is comprised of ;

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- (e) the number of ration cards issued in the above referred to circle together with the number of depots opened there ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that only two depots have so far been opened there and none of them is functioning ;
- (g) what is the total number of licence holders there and what have they been given for free sale so far ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that certain villages are as far as eight miles from the depots referred to above ;
- (i) whether the people of those villages have made a representation to the effect that another depot should be opened in village Sadana which is situated at a distance of three to four miles to the South-West of the present depots ;
- (j) if the answer to part (i) above is in the affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Thirty-four.
- (b) Three.
- (c) It is not possible to give this figure, as the boundaries of Thana Adampur and Distribution Circle Adampur (which is the unit for cloth distribution purposes) do not coincide.
- (d) There is 'Bhogpur Circle', but it is not in Thana Kartarpur. Bhogpur Circle comprises sixty-nine villages.
- (e) The number of ration cards issued in Bhogpur Circle is three thousand eight hundred and seventeen and the number of depots opened there is two.
- (f) Yes, but both depots are functioning since the re-imposition of control.
- (g) The total number of licensees in Bhogpur Circle is thirty-four and nineteen bales have been issued to them so far.
- (h) No. No village is more than five miles from its depot.
- (i) Some people of village Rojri, Gandhola, Garhi-Bakhsh, Shukerpur, Jallowal, Pachuda and Singhpora, (number of people approximately 40) have made a representation that another depot should be opened at Sadana.

- (j) There are also seven representations signed by about one hundred and fifty people of different villages of the Circle requesting that in case a depot is to be opened, it should not be opened at Sadana. As the claims of the different villages are conflicting, the case is under consideration.

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**FIXATION OF RATIO IN SERVICES ON COMMUNAL BASIS.**

**\*795. Shrimati Sita Devi :** With reference to the statement made by the hon. Premier in the Press Conference at Jullundur on February 11, 1949 with regard to the proposed decision of his Government about the proportions or percentages of communities in the recruitment to services, will he be pleased to state :—

- (a) the reasons why the Provincial Legislature was not consulted in the matter ;
- (b) whether his attention has been drawn to the Press comments made on the statement of the Premier referred to above ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

- (a) What I stated at the Press Conference was that I had drafted a formula for recruitment to services. That was based on my personal views. I had no right to bind any future Government. This being the case the question of consulting the Legislature does not arise.
- (b) Yes. The Press people are free to make such comments as they like and to draw their own conclusions whether they are fair and just or are unfair and unjust.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Is the hon. Premier aware that the statement which he had made before the Press Conference, had created unhealthy effect on the attitude of the officers of the Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is an expression of opinion.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if it is a fact that the officers are acting upon that statement in letter and spirit ?

**Premier :** It is absolutely wrong. That statement contained purely my personal opinion. It was neither discussed nor any order issued to the officers in this connection. I fail to understand how officers can act upon a proposal unless orders are issued to them.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that his statement before the Press Conference has created an adverse effect on the minds of the public in general and the services in particular?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is again an expression of opinion. Next question please ?

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ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE GRAIN, CLOTH ETC. DEPOTS  
FOR WOMEN.

**\*798. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he has received a copy of the resolution passed by the Provincial Branch of the A. I. W. C. recently held at Jullundur, demanding from the Government the establishment of separate grain, cloth and kerosene oil depots for ladies ;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Comparatively there are very few women who live on their own or have no male member in the family. Depots are allotted on the basis of cards and units. Exclusive depots for ladies would make it uneconomic and, therefore, liable to failure. Cloth ration can be drawn quarterly or half yearly in certain cases. No special action is called for. Moreover, Government is against establishing a practice of distinction between men and women in matters of this kind, as it tends to establish and strengthen inequality complexes. If, however, ladies experience any difficulties I shall look into them and solve them.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know whether Government will be prepared to allot a depot for ladies, if the All India Women's Conference take upon themselves the responsibility of managing it ?

**Premier :** I have nothing to add to what I have already replied on the subject.

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## PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*810. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) The number of primary schools opened by the Government during the last one year in the province ;
- (b) The exact number of students in Government Primary Schools ?
- (c) The exact number of teachers in Government Primary Schools ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a) Government did not open any primary schools during the last one year as primary education is the responsibility of the local bodies. In certain cases, however, Government maintains primary schools for Girls. Information in regard to the number of primary schools opened by each local body during the year is being collected.

(b) and (c). It is regretted that the latest information is not available. The number of students and teachers as it stood on 31-3-1948 is 6405 and 108 respectively.

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BAN ON MOVEMENT OF RICE TO MARKET PLACES IN  
KARNAL DISTRICT.

**\*819. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the movement of rice from the villages to a market place is banned in Karnal district ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that such ban is imposed on the movement of paddy in that district ;
- (c) the number of producers sentenced for bringing rice from villages to a market place in Karnal ;
- (d) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the causes of this discrimination ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) Only one case (involving four persons) for the contravention of the provisions of clause 3 of the East Punjab Rice (Transport

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Control) Order, 1948, was instituted in the Karnal district. It ended in conviction.

- (d) The movement of rice from villages to mandis is banned in order to establish a monopoly of purchase of rice in Government hands through rice mills which are in mandis.

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GRAM IN KARNAL DISTRICT.

**\*820. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that lacs of maunds of gram are lying in the mandis and villages of the Karnal District ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the gram is sold at a considerably less price than the control price ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there are good prospects of the gram crop in the Karnal District on account of recent rains there ;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the existing stocks of gram are decaying and perishing ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the local dealers have represented to the Government to remove the ban on the export of gram to other provinces ;
- (f) if the answer to parts (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative, what steps if any do the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) The stocks with foodgrain licences in mandis are reported to be about 2 lakh maunds (7400 tons). There is no accurate information of the quantity held in villages.
- (b) Government is aware that the current market price is below the maximum statutory control price.
- (c) The recent rains have been useful for the standing crops ; the sowings are, however, reported to be less than last year's.
- (d) There is nothing to indicate that the deterioration is more than usual and it is customary to carry-over some surpluses to the



next year. It is particularly necessary under present food conditions.

- (e) Yes.
- (f) Government have already given an export quota of 72,000 tons out of which 20,000 tons have been offered during the month of February, 1949. 25,000 tons of gram still remain to be despatched out of this quota. Government has recently offered another 25,000 tons.

#### CLOTH DEPOTS IN KARNAL DISTRICT.

**\*821. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of cloth depots opened in the Karnal District;
- (b) the number of such depots situated in rural areas, together with the maximum distance from the depots of villages attached thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any proportion between the local and the refugee depot holders; if so, the details thereof together with the basis on which it has been fixed;
- (d) the number of cloth depots allotted to refugee cloth licensees together with those given to the local people in the Karnal District;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the resentment of people of rural areas on account of location of depots at long distances;
- (f) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to remove this grievance?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) One hundred and fortysix.
- (b) There are one hundred and twentyone depots in the rural areas of the Karnal district. Generally the distance between the depots and the villages attached thereto is not more than five miles and only in a few cases, it is seven miles.
- (c) Yes. The percentage fixed by Government between local and refugee retail licensees for selection as depot holders is ordinarily fifty—fifty. This percentage has been fixed with a view to

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give the maximum relief to refugees who had been doing cloth business in the West Punjab.

- (d) Seventynine cloth depots have been allotted to refugee cloth licensees and sixtyseven to the local licensees in the Karnal district.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Efforts are being made to set up more depots where found necessary and this would remove the grievance of the people of the rural areas on account of location of depots at long distances.

**Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Is the hon. Premier aware that there are certain villages where people have to cover a distance of 10 miles to reach a depot ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member will give notice about the particular village he is interested in, I will supply him the required information.

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**WITHDRAWAL OF ANTI-CORRUPTION STAFF IN KARNAL DISTRICT.**

**\*822. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the reasons why the anti-corruption staff in Karnal, which was appointed after the celebration of the anti-corruption week in June, 1948 and which was doing good work, has been withdrawn ; if so, under whose orders it has been withdrawn ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Bar Association, Karnal, made a request to the Inspector General of Police on his visit there to continue with the staff referred to above, and that he did not agree to it on the ground that it was not possible to spare thirteen (13) police officers of sufficient integrity for such work ;
- (c) what action if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) No such staff was sanctioned by Government in Karnal.

- (b) A request was made by the Bar Association, Karnal, to the Superintendent of Police, Karnal, but since there was no staff finally sanctioned for the District, the Superintendent of Police was directed to take up only those cases relating to corruption which were referred to him for enquiry either by the Provincial Anti-Corruption Committee or by the District Magistrate.
- (c) Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

**Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Does the Government consider that corruption has ended in Karnal district ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member is in a better position to say that.

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POSSESSION OF LAND AT RAIKOT, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

**\*588. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Sardar Sohan Singh of village Hanska in District Ludhiana got on lease a piece of land of some absconder on Government auction at Raikot District Ludhiana;
- (b) whether the possession of the land has since been given to Sardar Sohan Singh, if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) who has been receiving the returns from that land since the auction, referred to above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

- (a) Yes, but the name of the lessee is Sawan Singh and not Sohan Singh.
- (b) Yes, but one Bachan Das has occupied the land forcibly.
- (c) Sawan Singh has filed a criminal complaint under section 447/504 I.P.C. and Government cannot comment on a suit which is pending.
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(15) 26 EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [18th March, 1949]

**ALLEGATION AGAINST SUB-JUDGE POSTED AT PANIPAT.**

**\*593. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the conduct of a sub-judge who was posted at Panipat and Sonapat is the subject of enquiry; if so, what are the allegations against him ;
- (b) who is holding the enquiry and how much time the enquiry is likely to take ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :**

- (a) First part—Yes.
- (b) Second part } It is not in the public interest to disclose the  
First part } information at this stage.  
Second part : Not known, but as soon as possible.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know what is in public interest and what is not in public interest ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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**RE-EMPLOYMENT OF SARDAR PRITAM SINGH BRAR AND SHRI N. R. SAWHNEY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**\*611. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Pritam Singh Brar and Shri N. R. Sawhney of the Indian Police have been re-employed recently; if so, the ranks they have been given;
- (b) whether any of them has been posted as Superintendent Police, of any district in the Province; if so, where;
- (c) the salary each one of them is drawing per month at present;
- (d) when and why were they removed from service ;
- (e) (i) the nature of the charges against them,  
(ii) the finding of the investigating officer, and  
(iii) the punishment awarded by the then Government to each of them;
- (f) the post each of them was holding when investigation was ordered against them together with the salary drawn by each before their dismissal or removal;

- (g) whether their previous records were examined by the Government before it was decided to re-employ them; and if so, the reasons for reversing the decision of the previous Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :**

- (a) Yes. Mr. Pritam Singh Brar has been re-employed as a Superintendent of Police whereas Mr. N. R. Sawhney has been re-instated to the Indian Police by the Government of India. Mr. Sawhney is at present working as Superintendent Police, Criminal Investigation Department.
- (b) Both have been appointed as Superintendents of Police, Mr. Brar as Superintendent of Police, Simla and Mr. Sawhney in the Criminal Investigation Department.
- (c) They will get the pay of a Superintendent of Police but the exact amount of the salary they will get has not yet been determined.
- (d) Mr. Sawhney was dismissed in 1942 whereas Mr. Brar resigned.
- (e) (i) There were allegations of corruption against them.  
(ii) The investigating officer found Mr. Sawhney guilty while Mr. Brar resigned before any formal enquiry was held.  
(iii) Mr. Sawhney was dismissed.
- (f) Both of them were working as Superintendents of Police. Mr. Sawhney was in receipt of pay of Rs. 950/- whereas Mr. Brar was drawing a pay of Rs. 1050/- .
- (g) Mr. Sawhney has been re-instated by the Government of India on his appeal against his dismissal. The question of appointment of Mr. Brar is still under consideration.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether the previous records of these officers were sent to the Government of India before they were re-employed ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Evidently, the hon. Member has not followed the reply given. Mr. Sawhney has been re-instated by the Government of India on his appeal against his dismissal. His personal file and the whole case was sent to the Government of India.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** When he was re-instated or re-employed, was his previous record taken into consideration by the Government ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Was this done to make a success of the anti-corruption campaign ?

REPORTING OF SPEECHES OF CONGRESSMEN BY C. I. D.

**\*649. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to the C. I. D. to take reports of the speeches of prominent Congressmen; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. First part  | No.             |
| 2. Second part | Does not arise. |

**Shri Virendra :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that the speeches of prominent Congressmen are reported by the C. I. D. ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member's question was whether we had issued instructions to the C. I. D. to report the speeches of Congressmen and my reply is 'no'.

**Shri Virendra :** They might be doing it in spite of your instructions to the contrary.

**Minister :** I do not remember to have seen any C. I. D. report about the speeches of Congressmen.

GRANT OF LICENCES OF REVOLVERS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

**\*737. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of licences for revolvers that were granted in Hoshiarpur district in the year 1948 together with the number of applications received for the purpose in that District ;
- (b) the names of applicants who were granted such licences together with their qualifications ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) There were 365 applicants. 232 were given licences for revolvers.
- (b) No useful purpose will be served by giving the names of the persons to whom licences were granted. Labour involved



in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit.

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SENIORITY LIST OF OFFICERS OF JAIL DEPARTMENT.

**\*772. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the seniority list of officers of Jail Department has been changed; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

Yes. The seniority of the officials concerned was changed in order to bring it in accord with the priority given by the Public Service Commission in the matter of their fitness for promotion to the post of Deputy Superintendents II grade.

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PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT.

**\*796. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any machinery has been set up by him to review the cases of those detained under section 3 of the East Punjab Public Safety Act; if not, whether the Government propose to set up one at an early date ;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaint from the detenus confined in different jails of the Province about the quality and quantity of diet, clothes, beddings, warm clothes etc ;
- (c) whether the Government propose to grant any family allowances to the detenus who are the bread-winners of their families ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) A committee has been set up and is reviewing the cases of all persons detained u/s 3 P. P. S. A.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Government Communique No. 18960-IB, dated the 27th December, 1948, a copy of which is laid on the table.

**PRESS COMMUNIQUE :—**Most of the Communist detenus in this Province went on hunger strike during the month of October having made a large number of demands such as grant of family and personal allowances, restriction in home districts and more facilities and concessions while under

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detention. Government made a statement on the floor of the House that those demands could not be considered under the coercion of a hunger strike. As a result of this and of efforts made by prominent congressmen and non-officials, the communists gave up their hunger strike unconditionally. Government, as promised, have now examined, their demands and have decided to give the following concessions :-

(1) A and B Class detenus will be given a diet allowance of Rs. 2/-/- and Rs. 1/8/- each per day respectively and will be allowed to run their own kitchens.

(2) The quantity of clothing and bedding allowed to A and B Class detenus have been increased considerably. Additional clothing and bedding in the winter months will also be provided.

(3) Government will in future provide A and B Class detenus soap, oil, tooth paste, tooth brush, DATTANS and shoe polish at Government expense.

(4) A and B Class detenus will, as at present, be allowed to receive Rs. 20/- and Rs. 10/- per month respectively as allowances from their relatives. In addition C Class detenus will be allowed to receive Rs. 5/- per month from their relatives as an allowance. In special cases the Provincial Government will sympathetically consider the question of permitting detenus to receive a higher allowance.

(5) Conditions regarding interviews have been liberalised. A and B Class detenus will now be allowed to interview upto 5 persons at one time. In addition, if any detenu has no relations to interview him, he will be allowed to give a list of friends. This list will be examined and persons from the list approved by Government will be allowed to interview the detenu as if they were relatives of the detenu.

(6) Government will supply one newspaper at Government expense for every 10 detenus. In addition, A and B Class detenus will be allowed two dailies, two weeklies and two monthlies each at their own expense. C Class detenus will also be allowed one daily, one weekly and one monthly at their own expense. The number of books which detenus can receive has been increased to 10 for A Class, 6 for B Class and 3 for C Class per month.

(7) A, B and C Class detenus will be allowed to write three, two and one letters per week respectively. There will be no restrictions on the number of letters they can receive. The form for writing these letters is being re-cast and will now provide much more space than was available in the form in existence at present.

(8) Detenus will be entitled to medical treatment by the Medical Officer incharge of the jail and will, on the advice of the Medical Officer, be sent to the District Hospital for treatment. Government, as a rule, will not supply dentures and glasses at Government expense but in special cases, Government is prepared to examine sympathetically the question of supplying glasses at Government expense.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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(9) The request by some detenus that they should be allowed to keep watches has also been agreed to by the Government. Detenus who cannot afford to pay will be allowed indoor games at Government expense. Their request for shaving facilities has also been agreed to.

These concessions are in addition to the very substantial concessions made in the last few months.

(10) Government regret that they cannot agree to family allowances as a matter of right but are prepared to examine cases of hardship sympathetically. Detenus wanting such family allowances should apply through the jail authorities giving full reasons in support of their requests.

(11) The request that they should be detained in their home jails cannot, for obvious administrative reasons, be agreed. In this province, there are very few jails which are suitable for accommodating detenus.

(12) The question of setting up machinery to periodically review cases of all detenus is under examination. It may, however, be noted that all cases of detenus are even now periodically reviewed. Government orders in this connection will issue in due course.

The East Punjab Detenue Rules were framed after taking into consideration the rules in other parts of India and were more or less, on the same lines. Since the framing of these rules, substantial concessions have been given and with the concessions now given the rules will, in most matters, be more liberal than the rules in other provinces. It will be obvious that detenus in this Province have no genuine grounds to complain against the treatment given to them. It is hoped that the public as well as detenus will realise this position.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In the copy of the communique supplied to me, at No. 10 it is stated that the 'detenus wanting such family allowances should apply through the Jail authorities; does it mean that the cases of those whose relatives have applied directly will not be considered ?

**Minister :** Their cases also will be considered.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** How many cases have been considered so far ?

**Minister :** Practically all the cases have been considered but the decision whether any allowance has to be given in a particular case has yet to be made.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** How long will it take to make that decision ?

**Minister :** The decision will be taken very shortly.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What is the definition of the word 'shortly' or 'Jaldi' ?

**Minister :** My hon. Sister is herself a professor ; how can I explain to her the meaning of the word '*Jaldi*.'

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Do I take it that the hon. Minister does not know the meaning himself ?

**Minister :** I know the meaning.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know the names of the members of the committee which is to review the cases of the detenus ?

**Minister :** We have appointed two retired District and Sessions Judges.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is there any non-official on that committee ?

**Minister :** Retired Sessions Judges are non-officials, they have retired from service and we have appointed them for this purpose.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** I want to know whether the Government has considered to represent any non-official point of view on the committee.

**Minister :** The retired District and Sessions Judges do not represent the executive point of view.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The retired people live all their life in such an atmosphere that even after their retirement their point of view cannot be considered to be entirely non-official.

**Minister :** I refute this allegation. Judges always have a judicial point of view.

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#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE JAIL FOR FEMALES.

**\*797. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he has received a copy of the resolution passed on February 12 and 13, 1948, by the East Punjab Provincial Branch of the A. I. W. C. wherein it was strongly urged to establish a separate jail for women convicts at an early date and pending that to appoint lady visitors for the jails where women convicts are lodged to look into and report on their condition ;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) & (b) No copy of the resolution referred to has so far been received. A scheme for the opening of a separate jail for women is, however, already under the consideration of Government; While non-official lady visitors have also been appointed to six jails in the Province, opportunity will be taken to appoint more lady visitors as vacancies occur.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** A copy of the resolution was sent long ago but the hon. Minister has stated that he has not received it; will he please find out where the defect is in his department ?

**Minister :** We are taking action even without receiving the copy of the resolution mentioned by my sister.

**Shri Virendra :** Is the number of criminal ladies increasing in the province that they need a separate jail ?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** There was a separate women's jail in the undivided Punjab, why should not there be a separate one here ?

**Minister :** We had no Allah Din's lamp with us with the help of which we could transport the women's jail from the West to the East Punjab. There was no separate jail for the women in the East Punjab but now we are taking steps to establish a separate jail for them.

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**PUNITIVE POLICE AT VILLAGE MANUKE, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.**

**\*828. Sardar Kehr Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount realized from the residents of village Manuke, Tehsil Jagraon, on account of the Punitive Police posted there ;
- (b) the actual amount spent on the maintenance of this Police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :**

- (a) Rs. 13,670/12/3.
- (b) Rs. 17,255/5/6.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary in his reply has stated in answer to part (b) that the amount is seventeen thousand and something but in reply to a question of mine the amount

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was given as rupees fifteen thousand and something ; may I know the reason for this disparity ?

**Minister :** I would require notice to find out the reason but I think that it might be a clerical mistake only.

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**PUNITIVE POLICE AT VILLAGE BUJGAR, THANA JAGRAON.**

**\*829. Sardar Kehr Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the amount realized from the residents of village Bujgar, thana Jagraon, for the Punitive Police Chawki, together with the amount actually spent thereon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :** Rs. 10,101/6/6 was spent by Government on the additional (and not punitive) Police Post, and Rs. 9,644/3/- was realized from residents for the same.

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**ALLOTMENT OF LAND LEFT BY THE MUSLIMS.**

**\*607. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the details of the scheme, if any, prepared by the Government for the allotments of the lands left by the Muslims in the East Punjab ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** The scheme of cuts and allocation of areas has not been finalised as yet.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** How long will it take to complete the scheme?

**Minister :** Only seven days more.

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**SETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM MULTAN AND MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICTS.**

**\*648. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state as to where does the Government propose to settle the displaced persons from the Districts of Multan and Muzaffargarh?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** The scheme of allocation of areas for the purpose of quasi-permanent settlement is still under consideration and it is premature to say where refugees from Multan and Muzaffargarh Districts will be settled.



**Shri Virendra :** How long will he take to complete the scheme ?

**Minister :** A week more.

**Shri Virendra :** Will you consult the members of the Legislative Assembly also before finalizing the scheme ?

**Minister :** No. It is not necessary to consult the members of the Assembly. The recommendations submitted by the Rehabilitation Board and the views expressed by the members at times are sufficient for the Government to complete the scheme.

**Shri Virendra :** Have all the recommendations of the Rehabilitation Board been accepted ?

**Minister :** Only the practicable recommendations will be accepted, the impracticable ones will not be accepted.

**Shri Virendra :** Who will decide as to which of the recommendations are practicable and which are not ?

**Minister :** Naturally, the Government will be the final judge.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Have you nominated such persons also on the Board who give impracticable suggestions to the Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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#### EMPLOYMENT IN THE REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT.

**\*755. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the proportion of representation of refugees and others in the Rehabilitation Department since the 15th August, 1947 ;
- (b) the number of retired officers with their names and addresses who have been re-employed in the Rehabilitation Department ;
- (c) the names and addresses together with qualifications of the officers who are getting over Rs. 1,000/-, between Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1,000/-, between Rs. 300/- and Rs. 500/- and between Rs. 150/- and Rs. 300/- respectively ;
- (d) the number of all officers and other employees, refugees and non-refugees employed in the Rehabilitation Department for the period 15th August, 1947 to December, 1948, together with the total expenditure incurred by the Government towards their salaries and other allowances ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained. Therefore, it is not in the interest of the time and economy to collect this information.

NON OFFICIAL COMMITTEES TO ADVISE REHABILITATION  
OF REFUGEES.

**\*773. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of non-official committees appointed by the Government to advise it in respect of rehabilitation of refugees;
- (b) the expense incurred on these committees :
- (c) the proposals made by these committees ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) (i) Originally there was only one Provincial Relief and Rehabilitation Board consisting of both officials and non-officials. From August 1948 separate Boards for Rural and Urban Rehabilitation have been set up. There have been five meetings of the General Board, 3 meetings of the Rehabilitation Board (Rural) and 2 meetings of the Rehabilitation Board (Urban).
- (ii) A Committee of the Urban Rehabilitation Board to look into the complaints and grievances of refugees in East Punjab. (Chairman Shri Bhim Sen Sachar)
- (iii) An Ad hoc Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Labh Singh Bar-at-law to examine the question of extension of the existing mandis.
- (iv) Two special sub-committees were constituted for advice on rural Rehabilitation matters on different occasions.
- (v) A committee to arrange the marriages of such recovered Hindu and Sikh Women as are willing to get married.
- (b) So far a sum of Rs. 17661/4/- has been paid on account of travelling allowance and daily allowance of the members of the Board and various committees. Some bills are still outstanding.
- (c) Copies of the minutes of the Board as well as the committees can be obtained from the Rehabilitation Department; if so desired.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any shape been given to the practicable proposals sent in by the Rehabilitation Boards ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that a committee has been set up to arrange the marriages

of those recovered Hindu and Sikh women who are willing to get married, may I know how many women have been married as a result of the efforts of this committee?

**Minister :** I have no information.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Do you ever enquire from the departments under you as to what action they are taking on the recommendations and proposals submitted by the Rehabilitation Boards ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member is interested in the number of marriages I can assure him that the number of marriages is pretty high. *(Laughter).*

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#### INTER-DOMINION EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY.

**\*774. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government consulted the Provincial Government before agreeing to inter-dominion exchange of property ;
- (b) whether the Provincial Government had given its view point to the Centre ;
- (c) whether the views of the Rehabilitation Boards were obtained on the subject ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.

At the Inter-Dominion Conference held at Karachi where this agreement was finally negotiated, representatives of East Punjab Government and a representative of the refugees also attended.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** In view of the importance of the matter was it not considered necessary to obtain the views of the Rehabilitation Boards ?

**Minister :** Government knew the views of the members of the Boards.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has the hon. Minister any idea of the value of the property involved in this exchange ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to guess any estimate of the amount involved on either side.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Minister know that the hon. Premier stated in one of his statements that the Hindus and Sikhs had left in West Punjab property worth fourteen hundred crores?

**Minister :** Yes, I know that.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Why did you not consider it necessary to obtain the views of any committee before coming to a decision on the matter.

**Minister :** There was no time for consultation nor was it necessary to do so.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How did the hon. Minister know the views of the Rehabilitation Boards ?

**Minister :** I knew the views of the members of Rehabilitation Boards through the Press and also through their speeches.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any Rehabilitation Board given any views at any of its meetings ?

**Minister :** It was not necessary to do so because it is not a Rehabilitation plan.

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**ALLOCATION OF AREA TO REFUGEES FROM  
SHAKARGARH TAHSIL.**

**\*775. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the district or tahsil that has been allotted to refugees from the Shakargarh Tahsil ;
- (b) whether Government took into consideration the preference indicated by refugees of Shakargarh Tahsil for allotment of lands to them in the remaining three tahsils of Gurdaspur district?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) Question of allocation of areas to different tahsils and districts of West Punjab is still under Government consideration.
- (b) Within the area of allocation preference of refugees will be considered.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether refugees from Shakargarh will be given any preference over those who had come from Montgomery etc. but were originally residents of Gurdaspur district ?

**Minister :** This is a matter of detail. It will be attended to at the proper time.

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**ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS ABANDONED BY  
MUSLIM EVACUEES.**

**\*809. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of industrial concerns in East Punjab abandoned by the Muslim evacuees ;
- (b) the number of these industrial concerns which have been allotted to the refugees from West Punjab ;
- (c) what steps have been taken to allot the industrial concerns which have not yet been allotted ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) The number of industrial concerns in East Punjab abandoned by Muslim evacuees is 1,541.
- (b) The number of these industrial concerns which have been allotted to the refugees from West Punjab is 1,059.
- (c) Most of the 482 factories are either so much damaged or devoid of machinery that they have lost their industrial character. Their cases are being referred to the Additional Custodian for deleting them from the list of industrial establishments. There are also a few factories which cannot be allotted due to some disputes pending with regard to them with the Custodian or in the Civil Courts. The remaining Establishments are being auctioned by the Deputy Commissioners.

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**MUSLIMS MIGRATED FROM KARNAL DISTRICT.**

**\*818. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Muslim families who migrated from Karnal district to U. P. in the disturbance days of 1947 and who have now applied for restoration of their lands and houses with a desire to come back and settle in their villages in that district ;
- (b) the total number of such applications received by the Government so far ;
- (c) the number of families allowed by the Government to resettle in their original homes ;
- (d) how long the Government propose to take to decide and allow these people who never went to Pakistan, to resettle in their original homes ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) The number of Muslim families who migrated from Karnal district to U. P. in 1947 is not known. Government have, however, received 54 applications for restoration from Muslims who migrated to U. P.
- (b) As in (a) above.
- (c) The applications are being investigated.
- (d) In accordance with the general orders of Government, Muslims who remained in the Indian Union are entitled to restoration of their property. Action under these orders is already taken.

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**COAL GIVEN TO CONTRACTOR BY P. W. D.**

**\*590. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it has come to his notice that 25 tons of coal was given some two years back to a contractor of District Ferozepur by the Public Works Department ;
- (b) whether the coal was made use of for Government purpose; if so, what ;
- (c) whether any enquiry was made into the allegation that this coal was disposed of in black market; if so, with what result ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

The hon. Member's attention is invited to answer given to Starred Question No. 464 on 25th October, 48.<sup>1</sup>

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

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**NATIONALISATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT.**

**\*736. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take over the control of motor transport in the Province by nationalising the Motor Transport business; if so, when ;
- (b) whether Government have been approached by any party not to nationalise this business; if so, by whom ;
- (c) whether the Omnibus Service started by the Government in some cities of the Province is working satisfactorily and at profit ?



**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) An Officer on Special Duty has been appointed to examine the question and report to Government. On receiving his report a decision will be made.
- (b) Government has received protests against nationalisation. These have come mostly from operators.
- (c) Yes.

**Pandit Mohan Lall :** May I know as to when that Officer on special duty is expected to submit his report ?

**Minister :** Within two or three months.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether only big transport companies will be brought under control or even those motor transports will also be nationalised where the owner and the operator constitute one and the same person ?

**Minister :** That Officer will examine all such kindred questions from every aspect. His report is expected to be very comprehensive.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if he will examine this point also, namely that the poor owners who are...

**Minister :** Yes, all these points connected with the nationalisation scheme of motor transport will receive his active and careful attention.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, can an hon. Minister reply when the member asking the question has not completed it ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Minister can guess the question.

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#### OPIUM, BHANG AND POST CONSUMED IN THE PROVINCE

**\*610. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of the shops opened for the sale of opium, *Bhung* and *Post* in Urban and Rural areas respectively of each district in the Province during the year 1948-49 ;
- (b) the quantity of the opium, *Bhang* and *Post* consumed respectively in the Urban and Rural areas of each of the districts along with the excise duty and the sale price recovered by the Government in each district of the Province from 1-4-1948 to 31-12-1948 ;

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- (c) the total amount spent by the Government to purchase each of the commodities referred to in part (b) above during the year 1948-49 ;
- (d) the quantity of each of the commodities referred to in part (c) above ;
- (e) the price per tola fixed by the Government of each of the commodities mentioned above in the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48 and for the first 9 months of 1948-49 ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) No new shops for sale of opium, *Post* and *Bhang* were opened in East Punjab during the year 1948-49. However, Statement No. I showing the number of shops in existence during 1948-49 is laid on the table. <sup>1</sup>
- (b) Statement No. II giving the requisite information is laid on the table. <sup>1</sup>
- (c) and (d). Statement No. III giving the required information is laid on the table. <sup>1</sup>
- (e) For the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 Government had fixed the retail price of opium at the rate of Rs. 3/7/-per tola. For the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 no fixed price was however enforced in respect of this commodity and the licensees were at liberty to charge any price they liked. As regards *Post* and *Bhang*, no retail price was fixed during these years.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the districts of Amritsar and Ferozepore, particularly the latter, are outbidding all the other districts in the Province in the matter of consumption of opium ? If that is so, may I know what steps do the Government intend to take with a view to eradicating the evil or even reducing it ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member sends any proposal or suggestion in this connection, it will be looked into.

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**MORTALITIES AMONG BUFFALOES AND MARES IN  
AMBALA DISTRICT.**

**\*711. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that huge

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library.

mortalities have taken place among buffaloes and mares in the Ambala Division in the Kharifs of 1947 and 1948;

- (b) what action, if any, the Government have taken or propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such mortalities ?

**The hon Sardar Kartar Singh :**

- (a) Yes, so far as buffaloes are concerned. As regards equines, there were 10 mortalities in 1948 against 2 in 1947 from Surra.
- (b) Goat Virus Vaccination work and also inoculations of animals to immunise them against Rinderpest and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia were carried out on a very large scale as will be seen from the figures given below :

	1947-48	1948-49
1. Goat Virus Vaccination	244598	302988
2. Rinderpest Inoculation	7186	27800
3. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Vaccination	57447	193404

It is thus clear that vaccination and inoculation work on a very large scale was carried out in Ambala Division with a view to immunise cattle against Rinderpest and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.

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#### VETERINARY HOSPITALS IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*712. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of Veterinary Hospitals that are located in rural areas in the Province ;
- (b) whether there is any scheme before the Government to increase their number in such areas under the five years post-war plan ?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

- (a) The total number of Veterinary Hospitals located in rural areas in East Punjab (i. e., other than those at Tehsil and District headquarters) is 111.
- (b) Yes, there is a scheme for the opening during the next five to ten years of 100 new Veterinary Hospitals in rural areas in East Punjab under the Post War Plans.

IMPROVEMENT OF MILCH BREEDS OF CATTLE IN THE  
PROVINCE

**\*713. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) what steps if any the Government has taken or propose to take to improve the milch breeds of cattle in the Province other than supplying pedigree bulls ;
- (b) if any such methods are known to Government, whether sufficient publicity has been given to them ;
- (c) whether the Government intends to supply improved cows to Zamindars from Government Cattle Farm for the purpose ;
- (d) the number of Dairy Farms that have been established in the Province in pursuance of the directive from the Central Government ;
- (e) whether the Government has in hand any scheme for artificial incemination in cattle ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :**

- (a) (i) A Dairy Development Officer and other staff have been specially employed to provide the necessary dairy advisory services.
  - (ii) A Dairy Development Board consisting of officials and non-officials has been constituted to advise Government in all schemes relating to dairy development in this Province.
  - (iii) Murrah Buffalo Breeding Farm and Dairy Research Scheme has been started at the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar. It aims at producing high milk yielding buffalo bulls for breeding.
  - (iv) The District Boards, Hissar, Gurgaon and Rohtak are being given grant-in-aid for subsidising best selected cows of the Kartana breed.
  - (v) A scheme to supplement livestock investigation work at the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar, has been started with a view to devise practical methods to produce dual purpose cattle by improving milk yield without losing draughtability in Haryana cattle.
  - (vi) It is also proposed to start two model Dairy Farms and also some dairy colonies in the Province.
- (b) Yes.

- (c) Cows, which are surplus to the requirements or not upto to the Farm standard but fit for breeding at the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar, are supplied to the cattle breeders for breeding purposes.
  - (d) There is no Government Dairy Farm in the Province. It is, however, proposed to start two model Dairy Farms and some Dairy Colonies in the Province.
  - (e) Yes. It is proposed to establish one or two artificial incemination centres during the next financial year.
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### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

#### ARREST OF MEMBERS OF JAN ADHIKAR SAMITI

**\*1058 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government had issued any instructions for the arrest of members of Jan Adhikar Samiti ;
- (b) whether any arrests were made ;
- (c) whether any of the arrested persons or those who were connected with Jan Adhikar Samiti had tendered apology to avoid arrest ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Orders were issued for the arrest of such members of Jan Adhikar Samiti as were connected with Sangh and promoted the interests of that organisation.
  - (b) Yes & (c) Yes.
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### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

**3 p. m.** During the course of his reply to the debate on the general discussion of the Budget yesterday the hon. the Finance Minister asserted that my criticism of his Budget was actuated by our mutual strained relations of a long standing.

**Minister for Finance (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :** On a point for order, Sir. Can the hon. Member make a statement at this stage ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Personal explanations can be made.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Sir, the hon. Gentleman can speak for himself, but sure enough in a matter of this importance I cannot avail myself of the privilege of being represented by him. He has told the House that he does not like me—perhaps hates me.

**Minister for Finance :** I never said that.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** But as for me, I solemnly declare before this august House that I bear the hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt no ill will and that my criticism of his speech was not tainted by any extraneous considerations. I yield to none in upholding the dignity and authority of the high office of a Finance Minister, but I maintain that the avoidable use of the personal pronoun "I" suggesting even if innocently a comparison with the rest of his colleagues to the disadvantage of the latter, is good neither for a Finance Minister nor for the Cabinet nor for this hon. House. However, if it would in any way contribute to the peace of mind of my hon. Friend, I am prepared to agree that those portions of my speech which have given him personal offence may, at his instance, be omitted from the proceedings of the House.

**Minister for Finance :** I can only say, Sir, that the hon. Member has misquoted me and the premises of his statement is incorrect and wrong.

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1948-49.

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**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt): Sir, I present the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1948-49 (Second Instalment). The demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

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#### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

##### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt): I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,07,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 25-General Administration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,07,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 25-General Administration.

I have received five cut motions and almost all of them are out of order on account of technical defects. Following the past practice,



I will allow one cut motion on the Demand as a whole to be moved and the House can discuss the whole Demand. Sardar Sajjan Singh may move his motion for the entire Demand to be reduced and not any particular item.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi):** I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sir, this demand of Rs. 52,800 has been put before the House for Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries. I would like to focus the attention of the hon. Members on the fact that when the Congress used to be in the Opposition, it used to criticise severely such demands when put before the House. In the year 1937, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, the then Leader of the Opposition, during the course of his speech on the floor of the House remarked:

“We have been reading in the papers that the number of secretaries shall be as many as we have got Ministers in our Cabinet and afterwards we came to know that the Ministers would not be satisfied with one secretary each. I do not know the reasons for it. Perhaps they might have found that there is greater amount of work or there might be some other reason to satisfy one party or the other (Premier : No). So, we heard that the number shall be 13.

“We thought and now we also hear it that 13 was an unlucky number. We heard it long before that it was not going to be reduced; it was going to be raised by 14. Therefore my submission is that we should not permit the appointment of a larger number of secretaries by this method. If the Cabinet wants more people they should come forward with a supplementary grant. Therefore my submission is that Parliamentary Secretaries should be treated like salaried Government servants of this Government, and as such they should not be entitled to claim daily or travelling allowances”.

The speech made at that time by our present Premier did not represent only his personal views. It reflected the opinion of the congress party. If these were the views of our party when we were in the opposition, why are there seven Ministers and eleven Parliamentary Secretaries now ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We have grown wiser now.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not interrupt.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I am not interrupting him. I am only helping him to elucidate his point.

**Mr. Speaker :** He does not need your help.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, he does not object.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Another thing which I wish to point out is, that when the Unionist Ministry was in power, the headquarters of the Parliamentary Secretaries was the same as that of the Ministers. Now, however, the places of residence of Parliamentary Secretaries are their headquarters. When I was a Parliamentary Secretary, I used to work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and did as much work as other paid secretaries of the Government did. I considered it the order of the Congress party and I obeyed it. But what is being done now? I am reminded of a saying—

ਦਾਫੀ ਸੇ ਸੂਝੇਂ ਬਢ ਗਏ ।  
ਦਾੜੀ ਸੇ ਮੂਝੇਂ ਬੜੁ ਗਈਂ ।

I shall quote figures to show that Parliamentary Secretaries have been drawing more money in the form of travelling allowance than their salary of Rs. 400 per mensem each. Sardar Shivsaran Singh Hoshiarpuri drew Rs. 4,035 as travelling allowance during the period 16th June to 30th September, 1948. The monthly average at this rate comes to Rs. 1,152. For the same period the average monthly travelling allowance drawn by other Parliamentary Secretaries is as given hereafter :—

	Rs.
Professor Sher Singh	... 935
Thakur Beli Ram	... 509
Rao Mohar Singh	... 463
Sardar Dalip Singh Kang	... 338
Pandit Bhagat Ram	... 335
Sardar Ajit Singh	... 306
Shri Virendra	... 264

**Shri Virendra :** What period is the hon. Member referring to? I ceased to be a Parliamentary Secretary long ago.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I am referring to the period 16th June to 30th September, 1948 when my friend was the Parliamentary Secretary. It appears that when this Government was formed, the hon. Premier forgot all the previous things. Our Government acts according to the saying—

ਰਖ ਨੇ ਦਿਤੀਆਂ ਗਾਜਰਾਂ ਵਿਚਚੇ ਰਘਾ ਰਖ ।  
“ਰਬ ਨੇ ਦਿਤੀਆਂ ਗਾਜਰਾਂ ਵਿਚੇ ਰੰਬਾ ਰਖ”  
(Make hay while the sun shines)

It is thought that communism is fast approaching and therefore the maximum advantage should be derived from the present position. We have not maintained the prestige of the Congress. In addition to seven Ministers and eleven Parliamentary Secretaries there are three Private Parliamentary Secretaries. May I know the functions of Private Parliamentary Secretaries? One thing which I know about one of them is that he writes the English text in Gurmukhi script and reads it out in the House to show that he was well educated but he was caught and his real position made known. Our Parliamentary Secretaries should be capable of assisting the Ministers. Being elected representatives of the people, confidence should be placed in them than the permanent Secretaries of the Government. They should not remain sitting idle at their residences. They should realise that they are not paid for doing nothing. They must justify the amount spent on them. People put these questions to us and I wish to understand the utility of these Parliamentary Secretaries, so that the public may be satisfied.

Now, Sir, let us take the case of our Ministers. When we were in the Opposition, this is what our hon. Premier, Doctor Gopi Chand said :

“My object, as you realise is this that I want the Chief Minister and other Ministers to get the same salary and that is why I want that the words ‘and to each of other Ministers’ be added to it.”

This was the view expressed by him, when a salary of Rs. 3,500 per mensem was being demanded by the Government. I wish to know, Sir, as to why the salary of the Premier should be higher than that of other Ministers. Has the Premier got to pay a surcharge on the price of articles purchased by him? Why should he get Rs. 500 more than other Ministers?

**Premier :** The hon. Member is free to bring a substantive motion of no-confidence.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is an indirect attack on an Act passed by this Assembly.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I wish to say that we should reduce the salaries of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** On a point of order. The hon. Member is attacking a legislative measure which has been adopted by the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already reminded him.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Now, Sir, I wish to tell the House, through you, the opinion held by the hon. Premier, when he was in the Opposition. He said:

But, we feel that the income of this province is so poor that we cannot afford to pay such high salaries to Ministers. It is always said, and I know that it will be said now, that if Ministers do not draw a salary higher than other officers in the province, excepting the Governor, they would not be able to maintain their prestige.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** On a point of order. Is the hon. Member allowed to continue his speech in spite of your ruling that he is irrelevant ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I would again remind the hon. Member that he is attacking a legislative measure passed by this Assembly.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Proceeding Doctor Sahib said :—

And I know that it will be said that it is not in the power of this Assembly to make a cut in the salary of the heaven-born service or the Imperial Service People, and because we cannot cut their pay, therefore, the Ministers must draw more pay than these services are getting, in order to keep up their dignity. But we on this side believe that the prestige of a man does not lie in the pay or in the income he earns. The prestige of a man lies in the service or his love for the country. Again I know comparisons are odious but I can cite examples where people working honorarily or drawing Rs. 75 or Rs. 50 a month do, if not better, at least as good work as Ministers will be called upon to do and command prestige. Therefore, we believe that the prestige does not lie in the income but in the spirit of service with which a man works for his country. Therefore, we believe that ministers should set an example for other Indians who hold some posts in this province.

This speech was delivered on 6th April, 1937 on the floor of the Assembly.

Sir, what I wish to bring out is this that when we formed the Opposition we were never tired of inveighing against the high salaries as we considered our province to be too poor to afford this generosity. I think we are much poorer to-day than we ever were and cannot bear the burden of these fat salaries.

**Mr. Speaker :** Whose salaries ?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The salaries of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and others.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would again remind the hon. Member that he is attacking a legislative measure passed by this Assembly.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** Will the hon. Member also quote from the speeches of members of the Congress party in connection with the compensatory allowances of members ?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** If the hon. Member kindly waits a little I shall talk of everything. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Members not to indulge in conversation and walk about on the floor of the House. They are free to go to the lobbies if they want to talk.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Sir, I shall give another quotation from the speech of Doctor Sahib just to acquaint the House with his views when he was in the Opposition.

It has been suggested that a time may come when I may be called upon to take charge of the ministership. I feel flattered by this statement but I may assure you that I don't think that I shall ever accept it because I know that my place is not here but elsewhere. I am a servant of the nation—of the poor—and as such I believe I have got no place to work as a Chief Minister, but supposing one day I were to get into my head to accept it and I had the majority behind me, I can assure you that I shall do my best to discharge my duties faithfully. Therefore from all points of view I believe that we have not got the right which has been given to us by our people, by electing us to this House, to give our assent to any salary higher than Rs. 500 a month.

But Sir, apart from the high salaries that the hon. Ministers have now got into their heads to receive, they are striving their utmost to supplement their income by other means, that is, through their travelling allowance. The figures of their travelling allowance that I am going to quote shall speak for themselves.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Total T. A.</i>	<i>Average Per Month.</i>
The hon. Dr. Gopichand, Premier.	Rs. 16316-5-0	Rs. 932-6-0
The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Home and Revenue.	Rs. 20166-6-0	Rs. 1156-8-0
The hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.	Rs. 17522-12-0	Rs. 1061-14-0
Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (Ex-Minister)	Rs. 15153-12-0	Rs. 1734-14-0
The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh, Minister for Public Works.	Rs. 17967-15-0	Rs. 1156-0-0
Chaudhri Lehri Singh Ex-Minister.	Rs. 13063-6-0	Rs. 1492-1-0
The hon. Shri Pirthvi Singh Azad, Minister for Excise and Labour.	Rs. 17226-10-0	Rs. 1111-6-0
The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, Minister for Finance.	Rs. 5646-8-0	Rs. 736-3-0
The hon. Giani Kartar Singh, Minister for Development.	Rs. 8584-6-0	Rs. 1110-11-0

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

At any rate I fail to understand one thing and it is this—why should a Minister charge ten annas a mile when his vehicle moves with the person of the Minister and four annas a mile when it is not occupied by him, i.e., when the car comes back after leaving him at a certain destination? Is the difference in rates due to the weight of the Minister? The Government should kindly tell us so that we can explain it to the public.

**Some hon. Members :** Perhaps there is greater wear and tear when a Minister moves in a taxi.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** But for that a Minister is paid Rs. 300 a month. Hon. Members must have noticed another thing which is so surprising and amusing about them. They have raised their daily allowance from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. I think they should not get anything as daily allowance as they always dine with their friends who are so proud of entertaining them.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Was not the hon. Member getting his travelling allowance when he was a Parliamentary Secretary?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Yes, but it never exceeded Rs. 135 per mensem.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Has he also ever entertained a Minister?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The Ministers do not come to me. They have nothing to do with me.

Sir, I place another extract before the House from the speech of the hon. Dr. Sahib which he made in reply to Sir Sikandar's demand for board and lodging and in which he says that we should live like poor men.

I would guarantee him as much money as would enable him to live a poor man's life and thus enable him to serve as Premier of this province honourably and set an example to others. I am one of those who shall be ashamed of drawing an allowance for the sake of maintenance out of public fund or a Government fund because Government fund is after all a public fund. But what we want is this that we should live like a poor man because we represent the poor people.

Sir, I proceed to give you more examples of the poverty of our



people and the province. I shall now quote figures showing the value of the furniture placed in the residences of our Ministers.

<i>Minister.</i>	<i>Value Up to 28-2-48</i>	<i>Value On 30-9-48</i>
The hon. Dr. Gopichand, Premier.	Rs. 6951-0-0	Rs. 15527-0-0
The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Home and Revenue.	Rs. 3907-0-0	Rs. 10704-0-0
The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad, Minister for Excise and Labour.	—	Rs. 8479-0-0
The hon. Sardar Partap Singh, Minister for Relief and Re- habilitation.	—	Rs. 7122-0-0
The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, Minister for Finance.	—	Rs. 6614-0-0

So far as Gianiji is concerned I must say that there is very little of furniture in his house. Sir, through you I enquire of my Government whether they are acting on what they used to say when they were in the Opposition? I think they are doing just the opposite of that.

In this connection, I am reminded of the Gurdwara Committee of a Gurdwara named after Bhai Pheroo in my constituency. There were four members of that Committee who made merry and indulged in all sorts of pleasures at the expense of the Gurdwara Fund. But after some time new elections had to be fought. When those members went to the people to ask for votes people raised slogans against them. One of these slogans was, "Down with family affair committee."

ਕੁੜਮ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਮੁਰਦਾ ਬਾਰ ।

कुड़म कमेटी मुर्दाबाद ।

In the same way this Government of ours has dragged the Congress very low in the eyes of the people, and we feel so much ashamed that we cannot face them.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Such things have no effect on them.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** There was a time, when we discussed every small item of the Budget and haggled for every single pie. But what do we see today? Thousands of rupees are being spent recklessly by our Government. About 2,500 rupees are being spent monthly for the maintenance of the aeroplanes which have been purchased by our Government

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

for the convenience of the Ministers, though they are used only occasionally. Huge sums are being spent on furniture and furnished bungalows. In spite of the fact that the financial position of the Province is much worse than before and according to Sardar Lal Singh, Director of Agriculture, it is one-third of what it used to be before, thousands of rupees are being spent by the Ministers quite unnecessarily. And what is the service done to the people with all this huge expenditure? The only service this Government has done is that the corruption has very much increased. Again this Government sold wheat to the people at 23 rupees a maund after having bought it at only 12 rupees a maund. I personally know that the Government purchased wheat at Patti at about 12 rupees a maund and afterwards sold it at 23½ rupees a maund. While the urban population got wheat at Rs. 16/- a maund the poor village people could hardly get it at Rs. 25/-. When we go before them, they remind us of our pledges given to them at the time of elections. I frankly tell them that we have failed to act upon them. It is under these circumstances that about one crore of rupees are being demanded by the Government in respect of General Administration. If our Government could have done anything to decrease the corruption now prevailing in the services, it would have been a matter of pride for us. On the other hand, this Government of ours has re-employed the officers who were discharged on grounds of corruption during the times of the previous Government. We raise our voice of protest, but ours is a cry in the wilderness. Everybody wants to fleece the common man and nobody cares.

Our Government, if disposed to show kindness towards anybody, does so to the utmost extent. If a Minister writes a D. O. to a Deputy Commissioner to favour anybody, the Deputy Commissioner, in turn, himself favours twenty more, and the brunt of all the burden is borne by the common man. Once a Minister of Central Provinces let a convicted guard go scot free; there was a great hue and cry. He had to resign. But here so many go scot-free and nobody takes any notice of them. In this connection, I would like to place before the House the case of a Sardar Jagir Singh, Assistant Police Sub-Inspector of Moga. On the complaint of one Sukhna *alias* Tanju son of Vir Singh of Turf (Mohalla) Sardar Ajit Singh of Moga, District Ferozepur, against the said police officer, he was sentenced to pay Rs. 100/- as fine under section 342/325 I. P. C. by the Sub-Divisional officer. On an appeal by the Assistant Sub-Inspector to the Sessions Judge, the punishment was enhanced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment and later on the same was confirmed

by the High Court also. Now it so happened that the Sub-Inspector was the son of a relative of an Ex-M. L. A. who was a friend of influential Ministers. He approached them and the Government remitted the sentence of the said Sub Inspector setting aside the orders of the High Court and he was also reinstated as Assistant Sub Inspector of Police in our Ilaqa. People of the Ilaqa are wondering at this state of affairs where defaulters are not punished and if punished by the courts, are saved by the Government itself.

I would like to place before the House another instance of the maintenance of law and order by the Government. At a place in my constituency, some people tampered with two canal outlets and widened them without any authorisation. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Tarn Taran, himself visited the outlets on 9-10-48 and ordered the overseer, Waltoha, to repair them. On the arrival of the overseer on the spot, on the 5th November, 1948, the persons concerned came out with guns and rifles and the poor overseer had to run away for life. He sent a telegram to his senior officers who wired to the police to help the overseer in carrying out the repairs. On the 16th November, 1948, the overseer alongwith an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police and three constables of Police Station Waltoha reached the spot and started excavation. But again they were not allowed to do their job by certain persons of the village who appeared on the scene with loaded guns. In spite of all these facts no action was taken against the persons concerned because they happened to have some influence with an important Minister.

Now look at the liberty of the Press under the present regime in East Punjab. 'Bande Matram' an Urdu daily of Delhi was banned for three months. The Railway Department and the Postal Department were instructed not to accept the parcels of the paper till further orders. After the expiry of the three months the "Bande Matram" authorities approached the Railway Department to accept the parcels, as the period of ban had expired. But they refused to do so because no orders to that effect had come from East Punjab Government. Many letters were written to the East Punjab Government but they remain unreplyed to.

Now take the case of Punitive Posts. Under the British regime Punitive Police used to be posted at some places for the maintenance of law and order. The Unionist Government admitted 'that if the tax levied on the villages where Punitive Police was posted was in excess of the expenditure of that Post, the excess amount would be refunded.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Now Sardar Sawarn Singh is at the helm of affairs. To my question number 60 he replied that in a certain case "the Superintendent's of Police has been asked to refund the amount recovered in excess. This amount is negligible." But I give below the figures of excess amounts for some of the Police Posts as given by the Government itself in reply to my question No. 35 :—

In Hoshiarpur:—The amount collected is	Rs. 183355-0-0
Expenditure actually borne by Government.	Rs. 170056-0-0
Excess.	Rs. 13299-0-0
In Amritsar City (1942-43) Amount collected.	Rs. 77381-0-0
Expenditure borne by Government.	Rs. 60186-0-0
Excess	Rs. 17195-0-0
In Ferozepore District the excess (from 1942 to 1948) is	Rs. 42407-0-0
In the same District, in village Dandhoo alone:—	
The amount collected is	Rs. 66992-0-0
Expenditure borne by Government.	Rs. 57807-0-0
Excess	Rs. 9184-0-0

So you can well imagine what conclusions can be drawn from these figures given by the Government. I asked the Government (question No. 35) :

"Whether the Government intends to refund the amount realized in excess to the persons concerned. If so, the reasons for the same."

The reply is :—

No, the amounts recovered in excess are very small and it will not be practical to refund these amounts as migration of population on a large scale from Pakistan to India and VICE VERSA has taken place particularly in Jullundur Range and most of the persons from whom these amounts were realized may not be there.

In fact no excess recovery has been made. Government are actually charging less than what we spend on the maintenance, of additional police posts. We only charge the inhabitants, pay, allowances, contingent expenditure and pensionary charges and nothing for their training etc. Government spend a lot on the training of personnel employed to man these posts. Raw and inexperienced men are not sent there. Government include expenditure on their training etc. The estimated cost would be considerably more and the inhabitants will have to pay much more than what has been recovered from them."

So we see how logical and rational our benign Government is.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** This is not East Punjab Government. It should be called East Punjab Company.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** The Unionist Government had some rules and regulations with regard to Punitive Posts. I have studied these rules and regulations thoroughly and they are still the same. There is no mention of training expenses in these rules and the Unionist Government never thought of realizing them from the villages. But our Government has begun to do so. I fear that it will, in the near future, begin to charge these training expenses of the recruits from their date of birth. To me it appears that there is no reason why excess amount should not be refunded.

Now Sir I wish to point out the efficiency and the arithmetical genius of the Government. In one of its replies there is :—

The total amount to be assessed is	Rs. 8880-4-0
The total cost recovered from inhabitants is	Rs. 8937-10-0
Actual cost borne by Government is	Rs. 7230-8-0

but amount shown as excess is

Rs. 5716-0-0

I wonder if the Government establishment knows any arithmetic and can count up to one hundred. Now let us think for a moment what the Government has done for the poor. We have been very eloquent on the question of service to the down trodden. But we have not been able to increase the salaries of soldiers, police constables, patwaries, peons and other poor people in proportion to the rise in prices.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Taxes will have to be increased proportionately if we are to do so.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** How do you reconcile the increase in the salary of a Minister to Rs. 1500/- from what Congress wanted it to be (i.e. Rs. 500/-/-) ? Have the salaries of the poor men also been increased three times ? We will have to admit that very little has been done for the benefit of the poor. In Una and Hissar people cannot get water even for drinking. What have we done to alleviate their sufferings ?

**Chaudhri Sura Mal :** He is stating facts.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** It is my duty to bring to the notice of the Government the sufferings of the poor. It is for the Government to remedy them. Whenever a Deputy Commissioner, a Superintendent of Police and other high officials, go out on tours and stay in the rural areas, they get a halting allowance. But the poor chaprasis and the constables do not get this allowance. Has he not to maintain himself ? I wish, Sir,



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that the Government thinks more of the poor. We have now adult franchise and we will see that those who devote themselves to the service of the poor are elected. The only remedy to corruption is to provide living wages to the low paid Government servants. The rich people should be brought down. Rich and influential persons easily succeed in getting their work done by the officials sometimes through their influence or sometimes by bribing them. But an ordinary person has no approach whatsoever.

Then I come to the question of stationery. I am really constrained to remark that stationery is not made available to police stations. Sometime back I wrote to the Government that police officials of various thanas of my district are experiencing great inconvenience for want of adequate stationery. Instances in this connection are not wanting. In my own district a police official went to the extent of asking the complainant who had gone to the police station to lodge a report, to purchase paper at the rate of annas eight per quire to be used in his case. Further in one of the villages of my district i. e. Ratta Gudda, the Station House Officer of that thana who had to chalan 17 persons, had no paper for drawing maps etc. in connection with the case. He had no other alternative except resorting to some other means to procure some stationery. He asked these 17 persons to pay him Rs. 17/- for purchasing stationery. It will not be out of place to mention here that this officer had no dishonest intentions in demanding the above mentioned amount from these persons. This is how the administration of the province is being run by the Government. Very recently I went to Gurgaon. I was told that Government had stored cement in that mosque. I sent a Registered A. D. letter to the Chief Secretary on purpose lest my letter should miscarry as there is a good deal of communalism rampant in Government office. And to my surprise my fears came right. I did not hear from him for about two months. On making enquiries about the fate of this letter, I was informed by the Chief Secretary that he had not received any letter and that he could not trace it. I am really surprised that this letter should have been lost after having reached its destination according to the postal acknowledgment form. This is how the administration of the province is run by the Government. The hon. Minister for Home and Revenue had stated last year in connection with the happenings at Darbar Sahib that the sanctity of all the religious places would be preserved. My I know from the Government how the storing of cement



in a mosque preserves such a sanctity? Here we have a secular State. In this connection I would like to quote an instance. A Muslim belonging to my Ilaqa was driven out by a Sub-Inspector of Police of Patti after the disturbances of 1947 and was asked to go to Pakistan against his wishes. This Muslim who received a very bad and inhuman treatment at the hands of the Police officer, returned one early morning to his home after passing the night at the border. I brought this matter to the notice of the D. I. G. Police in writing. Witnesses etc. were gathered against this officer but finally no action was taken against him. This is the standard of efficiency and such is the state of affairs in the Province where the officials indulge in their vagaries without any fear of any check from above. I am really constrained to remark that corruption is the order of the day in all the departments. If a question is put to the Government on this subject, we are told that replies to such questions is not in the interests of the public. The replies of the Government with regard to such questions are always evasive and sometimes they do not hesitate in saying that the information asked for is not readily available. Here I wish to quote an instance. Once I asked the Government as to what was the amount of Jagirs granted to the religious institutions and the individuals during the year 1948-49. In reply to this question I was told that the labour and time involved in collecting the information was not commensurate with the results obtained. Such record is maintained in the Financial Commissioner's office and the information could be readily available. As the figures to this effect are not available in the Budget, when the people enquire from us about the total amount of Jagirs granted to religious institutions, we fail to make any definite reply.

A few of the police officials have realized their duty towards the public and they do not show any favour to anybody. But unfortunately such officers are not encouraged but are ignored by the Government. Last year a certain police officer of Amritsar went to Baradari Maharaja Ranjit Singh and sealed it for conducting searches because he had received some information that some ammunition dumps comprising of rifles, sten-guns, and hand grenades were lying there. He did this at great risk but the Government described it as a tactless act. Police constitutes the strongest arm of law and it has got to maintain law and order. The law of the land must be held supreme and the forces of law and order should have access to every place. This year there was every likelihood of a terrible bloodshed on 2-3-49 had not these forces of law and order rushed to the spot and handled the situation efficiently. It is thus incumbent on the part of the Government to appreciate and recognise the work

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of efficient officials. One of the main reasons of corruption is that the looted property was not recovered from the illegal owners. Wherever Police got the clue about such illegal possessions, some of the officials after recovering such property thought it wise to keep it to themselves. These officers have not been touched nor have those officers been touched who indulged in loot during the disturbances. Here I wish to quote two instances of a Sub-Inspector who resorted to such nefarious activities. In village Booh, Police Station Patti, a certain Sub-Inspector collected 7 maunds of silver and 20 thousand rupees in cash from the Muslim inhabitants and had assured them that the same would be returned to them on reaching the border. The same Sub-Inspector was clever enough in collecting 20 seers of gold and 10 seers of silver from some other Muslims. He was clever enough to satisfy his subordinate officers. He gave ten seers of gold to one and 10 seers to another. These two subordinate officers along with the Sub-Inspector were departmentally dealt with and one of them was dismissed but the chief offender was only degraded from the post of Sub-Inspector to that of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police.

A strong and a firm Government can maintain its prestige and can also check corruption. Our Government should also keep the good of the public in view, do something noble and substantial which would endear it to the public and thus rise high in their esteem. Here I am reminded of a severe remark made by a Judge of the High Court against the Additional District Magistrate of Hoshiarpur which is that "He has deliberately lied".

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker)*

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** On a point of order, Sir. The matter is *sub-judice* and I request the hon. Member not to refer to it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I request the hon. Member to wind up.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** In our present administration there is neither peace nor tranquillity enjoyed by the public. The hon. Finance Minister has already made a reference to law and order. But I would request him to see for himself what it is like in the district of Ferozepur. It will not be out of place to mention here that in 1947, I and Chaudhri Ram Singh D. S. P. tried to take hold of some corrupt officers. One Sub-Inspector was put under arrest for being in possession of a large quantity of looted property. But on account of the interference from

4 p.m.

above he went unpunished as a result of which I and the officers got discouraged and the Anti-Corruption Committee got weakened. In spite of all that has been said against it, corruption continues unabated. No effective remedy appears to have been used to extirpate it. Unfortunately, by the merging of Akali party, the Congress party itself has become weak. There is neither cohesion nor singleness of purpose in our Ministry, composed as it is of hybrid elements. It has now become clear that the merger of the Akali party is only superficial. The Akalis have not joined the Congress party without mental reservations. What is the result of this superficial union? Communalism, naked and blatant is rampant not only in services but in every sphere of public life. I am definitely of the opinion that the merging of the Panthic party has weakened us. Ever since this merger, we have been led astray from our principles and creed. What did we use to say when we were in the Opposition? I am just going to read a quotation from a speech delivered by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava in the Assembly of the United Punjab. The views expressed here, were not his personal views but they are to be regarded as the views of the Leader of the Opposition.

"The question of communalism can only arise, when we do not pay regard to efficiency, because communalism leads to inefficiency. In my opinion, to fix proportions in service for different communities is wrong in principle. An argument has been advanced by my friend on the other side that perhaps we are afraid that the Mohammadans will get 50 per cent appointments and therefore we want to stand in the way of this resolution. I shall be very glad if cent per cent posts go to Mohammadans provided they are efficient and honest and carry on the Government. If I am in charge of the Government and I have to carry on the Government, I would not care whether a man is a Hindu, Sikh or a Mohammadan. If I feel that there are some Mohammadans who are without any employment because they cannot get into Government service, it shall be the duty of my Government to provide employment for them in some other way. It is the duty of the Government to find employment. Therefore I do not believe in communalism in services. Therefore, to say that we are afraid of Mohammadans getting 50% of posts is absolutely misleading and incorrect. We are in favour of employment by virtue of ability and not by communalism, because communalism leads to favouritism and when the question of favouritism comes, inefficiency comes in."

These were the views of Congressmen when they were in the Opposition; but what is the position now? Forty per cent of the posts for Sikhs, forty per cent for Hindus and twenty per cent for others. What does this mean? Is not the Congress party now in power? Why then, have these communal proportions been fixed for services? Why have those who used to make pious professions of acting upon the teachings of Gandhiji and of speaking the truth under all circumstances, begun to waver

in their faith on coming into power? Why have the true followers of Gandhiji turned hypocrites and 'thugs'? What is the result of their falling away from their old ideals? The Congress is fast losing its prestige. If the Congress Ministry is to govern the province in this manner, then God alone can take care of the poor masses. It will then be a misrepresentation of facts to call the Government 'popular Government'.

In the end, I would like to make a few suggestions. Instead of giving travelling allowance to Government servants proceeding on tour, all the Ministers and Officers of the Government should be provided with passes just like the Railway employees. Secondly, it is very essential that the staff of the C. I. D. police should be strengthened and they should be given every kind of encouragement. It has been noticed that while special pay has been sanctioned for most of the officers of the Civil Supplies Department, not a single subordinate police official such as Sub-Inspector or Head Constable is being given any special pay by way of encouragement. I believe, Sir, that no Government can exist for long without an adequate intelligence service or in other words C. I. D. I would be very glad, Sir, if two or three trustworthy Officers of C.I.D. are entrusted with plenary powers to deal summarily with corrupt persons. Prompt action is essential in such cases. You would never be able to root out corruption if you take several months in dealing with a single case. I know of cases in which a complaint was made in October but no investigation was carried on till March next. I reiterate, Sir, that if corruption is to be ended, ruthless and dictatorial methods will have to be employed. We won't mind even if you send corrupt persons to the gallows or blacken their faces publicly. But it is our most earnest desire that somehow or the other corruption must be exterminated, lock, stock and barrel. Do whatever you like, give whatever punishments you like but kindly, do see for God's sake that corruption does not stalk this land any longer. The moment a corrupt official is reported against, he should be dismissed. I may again tell my hon. Friends here that so long as they indulge in favouritism, corruption would not end. So long as favouritism is rife, you will look in vain for justice and fair-play in this province. Favouritism is again the enemy of efficiency. The worst disease that is eating into the vitals of our body-politic is, however, the recruitment to services on communal basis and according to communal proportions. It makes for inefficiency and gives birth to favouritism. So I would frankly tell my friends belonging to the Panthic party. . . . /

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** Who are Panthic M. L. A's? There are no Panthic M. L. A's here.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Outwardly, of course, there are none, but in reality there are.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** What about Communists?

**Sadar Sajjan Singh :** I can assure the hon. Members of this House that I have nothing in common with Communists. I am such a staunch and thorough Congressman that you will not come across another like me here in this House.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** Dr. Lehna Singh says that you are not so thorough a Congressman now as you used to be.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** My conscience bears witness to what I say, i.e., that I am a staunch Congressman.

**Minister for Development :** What did the hon. Member want to say about Panthic M. L. A's?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I wanted to tell them that if they have joined the Congress, they should also hug to its principles and behave like real Congressmen. They should give up hypocrisy and behave like honest persons. Since these Panthic M. L. A's have joined our ranks, Congressmen are finding it difficult to move forward. They have to accept a compromise in every matter in deference to the wishes of the hitherto Panthic M. L. A's. They are giving up their principles in trying to appease them. Now the position is like this. If the Congress party constitutes the arms of the Government, the Akalis have become its legs. If the arms want to move forward, the legs refuse to budge. If the Panthic M. L. A's had not merged into the Congress party the latter would at least have been freed to act according to its principles. It is in deference to your wishes that communal proportion in services continues.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Member to speak on demand No. 10?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Sir, we should weed out communalism from the services as it is doing incalculable harm to their efficiency and corruption and favouritism flourishes. Congress stands for equal rights to all persons irrespective of religion, caste or nationality. So it is our bounden duty to make all efforts to see that communalism should go lock, stock and barrel and if we succeed we shall surely have



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heaven on earth. Besides, Government should earnestly try to remove all genuine grievances of the public and respond to the public will. I would urge the Government to make an all-out effort to solve our manifold problems in order to remove the general discontent and unrest in the province. If this is allowed to continue it will be tantamount to inviting forces of communism to muster strength in our land.

I would now focus the attention of the hon. Members on the fact that often cases of attacks are being reported in the border districts. In village Bundala such attacks are of common occurrence owing to its close proximity to the borders. Recently, the invaders from Pakistan looted away the property of the inhabitants, worth one lakh of rupees. The aggrieved parties preferred claims to the Government to make good their loss, but the Government did not take any steps in that direction. I know that the police keep strict vigilance at the borders and if any person seeks to create trouble, the police deals with such miscreants properly. In case any policeman is injured or killed in an encounter, the Government awards adequate compensation. But no such relief is afforded to the public if any man is injured or killed as a sequel to the unlawful activities of the invaders in the border districts. In my opinion this is highly unjustifiable. I would, therefore, press the Government to effect some solution of this problem by making some provision in the budget to cover cases falling under this category. If crores of rupees are spent every year on the various activities of the Government, I think the sum of a few lakhs would not be a disproportionate sum to afford the much-needed relief to the unfortunate victims of such attacks at the borders. In such cases it is certainly the rights of the public to press upon the Government to take remedial steps. I have, Sir, expressed my views with independence though they might have caused a certain amount of embarrassment to my hon. Friends occupying Government benches.

In the end, I will again appeal to the Government to uproot communalism from the services, curtail all unnecessary expenditure and thus set an ideal example of the Congress. We want that the people should be real Congressmen.

ਅਮਲ ਸੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਬਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਜਨਤ ਮੀ ਜਹਨਮ ਮੀ  
ਅਮਲ ਸੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਬਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਜਨਤ ਬੀ ਜਹਨਮ ਭੀ ।

By our acts, we have made our administration a hell.



Let the chosen band of enthusiasts by their selfless efforts and sacrifice try to transform this land of ours into paradise! Otherwise if the Congress fails in its mission, it will lose its hold on the masses. I finish my speech with the verse,

मानों न मानों हज़रते दिल इखतियार है  
हम नेको बंद हुज़ूर की समझाए जाते हैं।

ਮਾਨੋ ਨ ਮਾਨੋ ਹਜ਼ਰਤੇ ਦਿਲ ਇਖਤਿਆਰ ਹੈ।  
ਹਮ ਨੇਕੋ ਬੰਦ ਹੁਜ਼ੂਰ ਕੋ ਸਮਝਾਇ ਜਾਤੇ ਹੈਂ।

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing North Western Towns, General, urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, in all democratic countries, there is an Opposition party. This party at the time of presentation of the Budget gets a chance to oppose the policies pursued by the Government and criticize its general administration. Fortunately, in this province we have got only one party in the House. So if any criticism is levelled against the Government, I should think that it is directed against ourselves. If we try to censure any Minister we should not forget that we too are responsible in a large measure for all that is going on in the province. In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Ministers not to feel embarrassed by any criticism that I may make in my speech, as that criticism is almost directed against us all as this is one party's Government.

Some of my hon. Friends during the course of the debate have remarked that there is a marked tendency towards increase in Governmental expenditure. But in reality, I must say that if the expenditure satisfies the economic needs of the people and is well-spent to improve the different aspects of man's life, the tendency towards increase should not be objected to. In this connection, Sir, I may refer to a brief story of a jeweller who was elected as a member of some municipality. After some time when it came to his knowledge that the net annual income of the municipality was Rs. 4½ lakhs, he suggested that all expenses on its establishment might be curtailed by retrenchment in its staff. He was of the opinion that only one man could manage the working of the municipal committee as his one *munim* has been successfully handling his business yielding an

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annual income of Rs. 25 lakhs. I must emphatically say that the demand for cutting down expenditure drastically was born of ignorance. Such criticism has little force and must, therefore, be avoided. I may draw the attention of the House to an objection raised by an hon. Member with regard to the purchase of an aeroplane. I think it is not a sound one. Similarly on this ground one may raise objection to the purchase of a fire engine which costs Rs. 20,000 with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,000 per mensem. If this fire engine is only used once in three years, it does not mean that its purchase and the recurring expense is unnecessary and that the amount is mis-spent. So my hon. Friends should not raise objection to the expenditure of Rs. 2,000 per mensem on these aeroplanes as their need outweighs the expenditure involved in this connection.

Besides, it has been said that a huge expenditure of Rs. 4.25 crores has been set apart for police. If the administration of police department is run efficiently, I think public will have no cause to complain over this increased expenditure. My hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has dwelt at length during the course of his speech on the administration of police. The Government should carefully consider his view-points and try to remove the defects. The Government should make an enquiry into all the complaints received by them and take remedial steps. It has also been noticed that the efficiency in the Government departments is at its lowest ebb and punctuality in attendance is not strictly observed. The efficiency with which our offices used to function formerly is fast disappearing. Officers do not observe regular working hours. Deputy Commissioners perhaps keep working at their residences. In my opinion, if these officers reach their offices at 10 a. m. and leave at 4 p. m., not only will they be able to do more work, but those subordinate to them will also observe full office hours. A few days back, along with three other Members of this Legislative Assembly, I had to attend a court. I found that while we were required by the order to attend the court at 10 a. m., the presiding officer of the court arrived at 11-30. Probably these gentlemen do the work at their homes. In my opinion, the work which the Deputy Commissioners are doing these days, is much less than what they used to do formerly. If the Deputy Commissioner reaches his court at 10 a. m., other Magistrates will also reach in time. Clerks and peons complain that while the Officers come to the office at any time they like, they have to work till late in the evening. Poor clerks and peons have thus to remain in their offices for long hours. Some people

say that the work of Magistrates has increased. Even if it be so, great irregularity has come into existence.

Then, Sir, the general public has another complaint against the Officers. They say that Members of the Legislative Assembly and other high placed persons are shown proper respect by the Officers, but when they go to visit them, they are not treated with the respect which is due to every citizen of a free country. Sometimes they spend the whole day waiting for an interview with the officers, but fail to get it. In a free country, nobody should be given insulting treatment. People say that the Officers now act more according to their own wishes than was formerly the case. Officers say that as Members of Legislative Assembly and Ministers interfere with their day to day work, their responsibility has decreased. The public, however, feels that the Officers act more according to their own sweet will. They say that because in some cases Ministers and Members of the Legislature interfere with the work of Officers and get things done according to their wishes, in the remaining cases the Officers act in the way they like and tell people that they are acting as desired by their superiors. An ordinary man feels insulted in this way. It will have to be conceded that proper respect is not shown to the general public. Another complaint which is made by the Officers is that no action is taken, if they report against an inefficient subordinate. Before these reports reach the Government, such subordinate officials bring orders that they should not be transferred or dealt with in any other way. Those officials who are connected with or can approach a Minister or a Member of the Legislative Assembly, do not fear their officers. This has resulted in inefficiency in offices.

It has been noticed that most of the offices give no reply to letters or applications received by them. Is it done in the interest of economy? When somebody complains that his application has not been acknowledged by a particular Department, he is told that it was not received at all. Then, Sir, whenever an officer is charged with accepting illegal gratification, several obstacles are put in the conduct of enquiry against that person. When no action is taken by the Government, the Officers of the Department entrusted with the work of checking corruption, are led to believe that it is useless to proceed against anybody. Another thing about which those who are in service grumble is that during the British regime, if a person was efficient and did good work, an entry to that effect was made in his service book. An inefficient person did not get promotion. It is felt that nobody cares to look into the service books now. Those persons who have recommendations get

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promotions. Personally too, I am aware of cases where in spite of adverse remarks, some persons have obtained promotions. In some cases, even those persons have been promoted, whom the Public Service Commission at one time declared to be unsuitable. If the employees think that they will not get any reward or promotion by doing good work, they would not like to do anything. As I have already stated, efficiency in Government offices is on the decline. I don't profess to be a scholar of English language, but I have noticed several mistakes in letters received from some Government offices. It seems that these days, nobody cares to correct the mistakes committed by a typist or a clerk. Formerly this was not the case. The cause of this deterioration is that persons are employed on the basis of recommendations. They, therefore, take no pains and do their work with ease.

Now, Sir, I wish to say something about the Industries Department. I am sorry that the Minister in charge of this Department is not in his seat. He stated that he wanted to industrialize the province, but I am sorry to find that no encouragement has been given to any industrialist. The Government may have framed certain schemes. For instance, they have a scheme for starting three sugar mills in the province. Nobody has been even interviewed in this connection.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Sir, are we not talking in vain? The Minister concerned is not present in the House. It is tantamount to crying before the blind.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I have no power to compel a Minister to remain in his seat.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The Minister for Industries has come.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** I would request my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha not to feel upset. We must do our duty and it is for the hon. Ministers to mind their own.

Sir, I was submitting that Government should have done something by way of encouraging some private people to develop industry in this unfortunate province. Arrangements could have been made for setting up resin, turpentine or say sugar factories. But nothing has been done in this direction. In case the Government desired that sugar cane which is

grown in this province should be utilized in this province for manufacturing sugar it should have advertised the scheme and I dare say that many people would have come forward to do this work. I know some people who are prepared to make a start only if they could be given sufficient accommodation for this purpose. But they complain that they don't meet with any encouragement at the hands of the Government.

Coming to the Civil Supplies Department I say that the work of this Department does not appear to be properly planned. For example I take the scheme of cloth distribution. All hon. Members must have seen how cloth is sold at the depots or say the shops these days. I for one am not in favour of controls and I have come across many people who are of the considered opinion that there is no necessity of imposing control at any rate on cloth. However, if the controls have to continue we must improve our schemes and methods of distribution. We all know that before the advent of controls there used to be many cloth shops say a hundred or two in a town and all the shop-keepers depended on these shops for their livelihood. Now the whole work in a town has been entrusted to ten or fifteen men and the reason adduced in support of this arrangement is that these people who are depot holders must be assured a handsome income. I certainly appreciate the idea of equitable distribution of cloth but it is no business of Government to arrange adequate income for ten or fifteen people at the cost of say about two hundred men. This is very unfair. I think the system needs a change and it would be decidedly better to have more depots as in this way more men will be enabled to earn their living.

**Hon. Members :** Why not distribute things through co-operative societies ?

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** All work is being done through the depot holders and not through the co-operative societies. Now take the question of distribution of wheat flour. In normal times nobody witnessed any crowd on the flour shops. But what do we see to-day ? The scene of the shops is exactly the same as we used to find at the third class booking windows at the railway stations. Anyhow there is no wisdom in giving work to a few and I would suggest that there should be greater number of shops than we have them now. Increase in the number of depots will also remove the difficulty of some people who have to travel long distances to fetch their necessities of life. I know that in Jullundur some people have to go something like half a mile to reach their depot which is indeed troublesome. However in case



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it is not possible for a shopkeeper to eke out a living by dealing in any one commodity he may have recourse to others in addition to it. Sir, I mention another important trait of this Department. Everybody has heard people say that we are living in days of dearth and scarcity. But this does not appear to be true of some of the employees of this Department. Only a few months after they have joined service with a start of about Rs. 250 a month they happen to possess a motor car and begin to lead a very decent life. After all where does so much money come from? We all know that Rs. 250 a month do not go a very long way these days. This clearly means that the activities of such men must be closely watched by Government.

Sir, it is really very unfortunate to find that nobody is satisfied with this Government whether he is rich or poor or belongs to the middle class. The rich say that they are not protected whereas the poor think that the Government is weighted on the side of the rich. The middle classes are of the opinion that while the rich do not stand in need of any help and the poor are in a position to somehow earn their livelihood nothing is being done for them. I think the Government should try to find out as to where the shoe pinches in each case.

A great deal is being spent on law and order. I think the expenditure on this account is over rupees two crores. But I am in a position to say that Sardar Sajjan Singh was not far wrong when he challenged the hon. Finance Minister saying that if he were to visit Ferozepore he might have to come back without the clothes he was putting on.

**Minister for Finance :** It is wrong.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** I may tell my friends that if they could maintain law and order properly, people of this province are so good that they would not grudge them expenditure equal to five times the present one.

Sir, I cannot help saying a few words about the Rehabilitation Department which has been a source of great discomfort to the people. I very well realize that at the inception stage nothing substantial could be achieved for want of regular schemes but it is a pity that even now no satisfactory steps are being taken to resettle the people. Unlike the past the estimates of this Government are never correct. They promise to put a scheme through in three months time but they are not able to do it



in many months. They said that they would be able to resettle all refugees living in the camps by May and that they would never face the hardships of the hot summer. But they did not act up to their word. I think they could very easily absolve themselves from the difficult duty of resettling people if they had accepted my advice of advancing a sum of Rs. 1,000 to each refugee. Such a step would have facilitated matters and the Government would have earned a name for itself. Even now I think about three lakhs of people are staying in the camps. The Government is paying at the rate of 50 rupees per head over and above the administrative charges. Every person in the camps has got 600 rupees up till now; but still he is dissatisfied and grumbles that nothing has been done for him. This criticism applies not only to the Ministers but also to the Congress party, and also applies to the old and new Congressmen. I find that the new Congressmen are more vocal in their criticism of the Government than the old ones. They do not spare the Congress organization even. I am sorry to find that they call our Gandhi cap as .303 not only on the floor of the House but even outside. I know these are the people who bring bad name to the Government and create difficulties for it. I, therefore, think that the persons who try to discredit the Congress, are certainly not genuine followers of the Congress. It is our ill luck that these people are discrediting not only Government but also the Congress organization in the Province, although it was due to the strength of this organization that they came over to its benches. It is possible that the complaints of the public may be exaggerated or totally baseless. But even if the people are in the wrong, it makes no difference to us. There is a great weight in public opinion. It is on account of that that we succeeded in overthrowing the British Government. We should not therefore ignore it.

I read in the papers the speech of our hon. Premier which he delivered in the Bhargava College the other day. He warned against the onrush of communism and exhorted us to change our way. Socialism and communism will perhaps be brought about by stages. But what is feared is that there will be anarchy in our country. Such things exist not only here but also in other countries of the world. It is human psychology that if one person does anything wrong, the others also want to do the same. People look towards their leaders. When they find that the leaders themselves are grinding their own axes, they also begin to aspire for leadership. On the other hand if our leaders are

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self-sacrificing, people do not grumble and willingly follow them. Even a black marketer expects of his leader that he should be impartial in his dealings with others and he should do no wrong. We made sacrifices in the past, not that people asked us to do so. On the other hand, we ourselves felt that the people were suffering and we should do something to serve them. Even at that time there were people who were critical of our work and dissuaded us from it. But we did not listen to them and made sacrifices. Now the times are changed. The people whom we look upon as our masters, expect us to be honest and self-sacrificing even now. When they find that we lack such noble qualities, they start grumbling and that is the main cause of their discontent. When a common man finds that his leader is making profit for himself, he begins to aspire for leadership. This is why everybody wants to become either a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary. Anybody who has the following of ten or even five persons regards himself fit to become a Member of the Assembly and even a Minister. I, personally, think that if our country wants to avoid communism, the only way to do so is that our leaders should be self-sacrificing and should rise above personal considerations. There is a great deal of restlessness in other countries. New Ministries are formed every six months. It is, therefore, highly necessary that our leaders should be self-less at this critical time. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that we should establish Ram Raj in our country after turning out the British. His conception of Ram Raj was perhaps taken from the story of Shri Ram Chandra's reign. Shri Ram Chandra's rule, although a monarch's rule, was yet people's Raj. You will be surprised to know that he turned Sita out of his house only because he had heard an ordinary dhobi saying things against her knowing full well that she was quite chaste and pure. Shri Ram Chandra thought that if he did not turn out Sita, it would create a bad impression on the women of the country and their morals would come down. He knew that Sita was innocent but with a view to pleasing the people he turned her out of his house. I think that this single act of renunciation of Shri Ram Chandra made him a prophet of a man. If he had not done this, he would have gone down in history as an ordinary Raja and not as a prophet. He could have called upon that dhobi to prove his allegations but he did not do so but turned out Sita, not caring for his own comforts. He knew that the whole life of the country would be shattered if the people remained dissatisfied, because they had fought and made sacrifices for recovering

Sita. Many of them had been killed in the battle field. It was, therefore, necessary to placate the people. I, therefore, submit that if we want to avoid communism and even anarchy in our country, we will have to act on the lines of Shri Ram Chandra. It is necessary that we should rise above personal considerations. All of us criticize the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries for the fat salaries which they draw, but we are unmindful of the fact that these poor folk are getting just half of what their counterparts got in the United Punjab. On the other hand we members of this House are enjoying the same salaries and allowances as we ever did. We travel third class whereas we charge for the first. People cannot like these things and due to our weaknesses such as these, their sympathies are being alienated from us.

So if we wish to put a stop to all these we must behave like Ram Chandra who in response to public criticism sent away Sita even though he believed in her purity. Now there is a general criticism against the Congress. There may be no basis for it. But there it is. The mind of the people is agitated and there is a general cry that favouritism is rampant. We therefore must not ignore public criticism. The only way to meet the situation is to do away with favouritism. I need not say more but I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out that people in general have grievances against officers. Officers do not care for the ordinary man. But it is my considered opinion that if we follow the path of self denial in a dignified manner no officer can dare disobey us. But the pity is that we have also fallen from the right path. We do not realize our duty. If we follow the Gandhian way and try to administer justice in the same spirit our difficulties will decrease. Those of us who have the fortune to be in the forefront should decide and tell that we don't want anything for us. Although we may be justified in doing so. It is only in this spirit that we can be of any service to the nation. People have grievances against us. Many misunderstandings have arisen. It may be that there is no basis for them. It will not be out of place to refer here to a talk that I had with a lady Congress worker while I was coming from Jullundur. She complained that we had many bungalows in Simla and Jullundur, while refugees are without any shelter. Now this is not a fact but it has somehow gone down in the minds of a large number of people. Similarly a single instance of getting a permit for something by a relative of an M. L. A. gets wind and it is thought that all the M. L. As and Ministers are doing favouritism and are corrupt. If all of us decide not to let anything happen which may be considered selfish by the

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people at large we will be setting a good example and earning a good name. If we once create this impression people will themselves concede our right to certain things. It is a question of creating confidence in the public mind and we must do so. At present whatever good we do is not given enough publicity. That is one of our shortcomings. The other day my hon. Sister mentioned that we spend too much on Publicity Department. It is my opinion that we are not spending enough for the purpose.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Schgal :** At present we are not spending the amount properly.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Anyhow we need publicity because it is only by publicity that we can create confidence in the people. We should boldly deny the wrong rumours that get circulated about us. Kala Venkata Rao told me that a story about him spread in Madras that we had given permit to his relatives and that he was building a good house for himself out of the money that he received by illegal gratification. He cleared the position in a public meeting asking the people to find out the house he was building for himself and to get it for the nation. He also told them that he had only two relatives. One was mad and the second was a patwari. The people could find out whether the patwari was given any permit by him. I wish that we should also clear any misunderstanding that may arise as Kala Venkata Rao did. There are some rumours which have no foundation. It is publicity that can help in exploding these. A question asking information about the names of corrupt officers was asked in the House. I am of the opinion that the names of those 36 officers who have been dismissed on charges of corruption etc. should have been given wide publicity so that other officers may learn a lesson from them and those who rendered help in finding out the culprits may get encouraged.

In the end, Sir, I can say with confidence that if we cease to exploit the situation those violent accusations that are being levelled against us from time to time will melt away. It is one in many who brings dishonour to them all. If we unite and make service our motto, the public will appreciate it. We resort to exploitation because we are not as big morally as we ought to be. I don't say this to the Ministers only. I include myself in it. If India is to be saved from anarchy and chaos, we will have to practise self-denial. When a man comes to us

for some favour because we are his relatives, we should ask him to do us a favour by not asking for anything because he is our relative. We have an equal claim on him.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair).*

5 P.M. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, When the Congress fought and sacrificed a lot for freedom, they used to give a graphic picture of Free India. At that time we used to think of the benefits which we would enjoy after attaining freedom.

**Mr. Speaker** : I find that it is generally the Congress Party which is under discussion and not general administration.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa** : Certainly, Sir, it is the Congress Assembly Party and the Congress Party administration and certainly, Sir, the Congress Party ipso facto comes into the picture when we are discussing the General Administration of the Congress Party Government. I wish to submit that we were thinking then that every individual could get a square meal and enough cloth to wear, but at the same time we used to think that such a thing would need money. But there was no hidden treasure lying anywhere which we could get on attaining freedom. Such measures of public good need money which in its turn needs time but in the absence of these virtues we expected that at least the grievances of the suffering and poor people would receive sympathetic and immediate consideration and that their tales of woes and sufferings would be heard sympathetically in the law courts and offices. The experience of liberty in the last one and a half years has shown us that things were quite smooth and satisfactory during the British regime than now. Even an ordinary complaint if brought to the notice of the officers was heard patiently because the officers were afraid of their superiors. The grievances of the poor were better redressed than we find at present. In these days of liberty we find that any complaint or any application submitted to any authority in any Government office, remains unheard and unresponded to unless and until either there is any friend in that office or one is in a position to exert some pressure or influence. People are under the impression that M. L. As very easily get their things done through influence and favour. In this connection I would like to place my personal experience before the House. My father was receiving an Inam-I-Jang of Rs. 15/- per month, and this grant could



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be earned by his successors for two generations after his death. Unfortunately my father passed away and the legal recipient of this grant was my elder brother. This sum of Rs. 15/- seemed and was indeed very helpful to us after the partition of our Province. We were informed that this sum could be drawn from Gurdaspur treasury and that orders to this effect had already been sent to the Treasury Officer of Gurdaspur. I therefore asked my brother to go there after eight or nine days by which time the orders must have reached there. Consequently he left for that place. The concerned clerk there told him that the orders had not reached the office by that time. After another 8 days I asked him again to go but he asked me to accompany him. Accordingly both of us went to Gurdaspur but the clerk asked us to come next day. We went there next day and were told to come at 3 P. M. We went to see the clerk at the appointed time but were again told to come next day. In this way we wasted three days without being able to draw the amount and it was not till I complained to the Treasury Officer that the clerk was made to look into the case. It will not be out of place to mention here that it takes Rs. 14/4/- per head for coming from and going to Gurdaspur from Batala. After spending so much of money and after wasting three days I was able to draw this small sum of Rs. 15/-. Further I wish to submit that in the matter of grants and loans people have to waste from ten to fifteen days to get the money after it has been sanctioned. Many people get so much disappointed by this unnecessary delay that they give up the idea of securing the loans or grants. A strange atmosphere of inefficiency and carelessness is prevailing in the Government offices that for a petty enquiry a clerk directs the enquirer to some one else and he in his turn shows utter carelessness and avoids furnishing him with any information and thus tells him to see some other clerk. The staff members of the Government offices have not understood and realized their duty towards the public who have a rightful claim over them as public servants. Both the officer and the clerk feel that they are independent masters and that there is no one to check their malpractices. Instances in this connection are not wanting. In my village, although I have no village of my own in this post partitioned province, a certain Naib Tehsildar came to recover land revenue. While demanding the revenue he came across a person who had not received any proceeds of his land from another person to whom he had given it for cultivation and himself was dying a penniless refugee. Naturally he was not in a position to pay the land revenue. He placed



these facts before the Naib Tehsildar whose false dignity and ruthless temperament did not allow him to listen to any of his arguments. Taking undue advantage of his authority he mal-treated this poor person and treated him like a beast. He did not spare pulling out his beard and giving him a shoe beating. I do not know what happened to this person or where he is after this unfortunate incident. May be, he might have committed suicide to save his self-respect. This very Naib Tehsildar visited another village in connection with the revenue collections. On demanding land revenue from a certain respectable Chaudhri Sahib, whose name I do not want to mention, who was not in a position to pay due to certain unavoidable circumstances, this Officer in the presence of policemen and people hammered this respectable Chaudhri Sahib with shoes and levelled him to the ground. He also went to the extent of calling him names and abused him in uncivilized terms. So far no action has been taken by the Government against this rapacious officer. It seems that the officer is well connected and that there is some force behind him which shields him against such inhuman behaviour. This is what is happening in these days of liberty and freedom.

Now I come to the next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. In the British regime no officer was appointed in his own district or tehsil and this practice was invariably followed. However honest and above board an officer may be, it is inconceivable that he would not sometime or the other act under somebody's influence, in case he is posted in his own district. It was for this reason that no officer was posted in his own district during the British regime. It was presumed that if an officer is posted there, he would be liable to act under the influence of some relative or friend. No such consideration is kept in view by our Government while making appointments and postings. This is really bad. I have in view particularly the appointments of magistrates who were formerly working honorarily, but who have now been posted permanently in their own districts and tehsils. I don't think there is any need for me to speak about corruption, since there is nothing about it which has not already been discussed. Crime is on the increase everywhere in this province. Cases of murder and dacoity have become frequent. I don't say that money is being wasted on the police. But when so much is being spent, is it not natural that we should be keen to watch its effect, and expect the state of law and order to improve. If even after the achievement of independence, 'the peoples' Government cannot succeed in maintaining law and order in the province, despite spending so much on Police Force, one is naturally led to

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the conclusion that there must be something wrong somewhere. I don't think it is necessary for me to point out where the defect lies. It is for those, who are responsible for the administration of the province, to investigate its causes.

There is, however, one thing to which I would particularly draw the attention of the Government. I am referring to that curse i. e. communalism which despite all the condemnation that is hurled upon it, is rampant in every Government department, unabated. In almost every department the subordinates of one community are feeling aggrieved at the treatment being meted out to them by their Head of the Department, belonging to the other community. It is inconceivable that all employees of a particular community who were working quite satisfactorily in the united Punjab, should after the partition become inefficient. Yet this is the only conclusion which can be drawn from the remarks given on the service records of persons of community other than to which the Head of a particular department belongs. It is a fact, Sir, that every Head of the Department is unduly favouring those employees under him who happen to belong to his own community and injuring the interests of those who belong to the other community by spoiling their service rolls. What I want to emphasize is that this is a very dangerous development fraught with grave consequences. Prevalence of communalism in services is having serious repercussions on the public life of the Province. Every sensible man knows that if India is to progress, it will have to root out communalism from its body politic. So this should be a matter of foremost concern to our Government. We have to keep the past happenings before our eyes. The germ of the disease which was responsible for the partition of the country must be killed at once. People should be prevented from thinking on communal lines. We have not yet recovered from the disastrous consequences of the last partition. If we want to avoid a repetition of the past tragedy, the confidence of the minority community shall have to be won by the majority community. The majority community will have to do something to win the confidence of the minority community. I am not prepared to make any suggestions in this connection. If the majority community wants the development of strong and healthy nationalism in this country, it will have to give proof of its sincerity by showing magnanimity towards the minority community. Propaganda about the excessive strength of persons of a particular community in a particular department, would do incalculable harm to the cause of nationalism. The majority will have to be magnanimous and allow some concessions to the

minority with a view to winning its confidence. It was the reluctance of the majority community to show magnanimity to the minority community which brought about the partition and I am afraid if the majority community again behaves in that manner, results would again be disastrous. The majority will have to face the realities. Sir, I am not a communalist. No one can make such allegations against me. In the election, I had opposed the Akali candidate. But Sir, I cannot shut my eyes to the facts as they are, and I know that every one will have to face these facts. I may also say that use of force and repression would not prove of any avail, against the tendencies to which I have already referred. No one can subdue the voice of the people, demanding their rights, by putting them behind the bars. Such people won't be crushed by force. Repression cannot kill the spirit of the people. No other organization in the world has more experience of this than the Congress. If a mighty nation like the British could not kill the Congress by repression, no other nation can hope to succeed in subduing the voice of the people, clamouring for their rights, by repression. Methods other than repression will have to be employed to satisfy the demands of the minority. We have been told that we shall have to approach the Central Government for this purpose. I think, Sir, it would be much better if we settle this matter among ourselves—this matter which solely concerns our province. It would not be advisable to refer it to others.

There is another matter regarding which I would like to say a few words. My hon. friend Sethiji has said that no one, neither the labourer nor the peasant nor the soldier, is in reality satisfied with what we are doing. I quite agree with his view. Take the case of Chaprasis and clerks. You will find them discontented. Sir, every one of us is anxious to ward off communism but unless we do something to better the condition of poor people, how can we hope to succeed in our object? Without doing anything to better their lot, how can you make them immune to communist propaganda? We shall have to solve the problem of 'bread' in order to achieve our object. So far as I can see, no such programme is before the Government, nor does it appear to be considering the desirability of taking any steps in this direction.

Sir, an hon. Member has complained of the undue interference of M.L.As in the Government administration. I do not subscribe to his views. For my part, I dare say in the presence of the hon. Ministers that I have never asked for undue favours at their hands. I also make bold to say that I have never interfered with the work of

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district authorities. I fought the elections of the District Board as well as that of the Provincial Legislative Assembly and was returned in spite of the stiff opposition of the Akali Party. The question of interference in fact does not arise if the hon. Ministers are men of strong character. The M.L.As. try to interfere only because the hon. Ministers show some signs of weakness and can easily deviate from the path of their duty. Sir, I submit that we should send some heads of departments for training to foreign countries so that they may see for themselves how the work is conducted in Government offices there. Their disposal of work is marvellously quick and prompt. If anybody submits his application there he has not to wait for long hours. If any enquiry is made, its reply is given forthwith. But I am sorry to say that process of working in our departments is painfully slow. Though our country has been liberated yet there is little difference in the Government machinery. If this state of affairs continues, we may feel that slavery was perhaps better than this independence, which has no fascination for the common man.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): I have been listening with rapt attention to the speeches made by my honourable Friends on the demand for General Administration. I may say that the Ministers like other human beings are not infallible. The Government will make best efforts to remove all defects and irregularities as pointed out by my hon. Friends. Mostly what has been said during the debate falls outside the scope of my portfolio except one thing to which my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has drawn my attention. He has remarked that Government has charged excessive rate for seed supplied to the cultivators. I must confess that his allegations are correct. I think my honourable Friend will recollect that he gave notice of a question in the last session on this subject on which the Government replied that it was proposed to give concession to such people in order to compensate them. It has also been pointed out that the Consolidation of Land Holding Act having been passed, no provision has been made in the Budget in this behalf. I may make the position clear. The work of rehabilitation of refugees is in progress and the Government is trying to make permanent allotment of lands to them as soon as possible so that they may be able to resettle themselves. It is therefore natural that it will take sometime to work under this new Act. Moreover, out of the 16,000 villages, 11,000 villages are such where some land is that of Muslim evacuees. So it will be necessary to obtain their



consent before proceeding with the work of consolidation. It is considered necessary that their interests may not suffer in their absence. The work of consolidation of holdings will start immediately after the refugees from Pakistan are settled. The estimate of expenditure to be incurred in this behalf will be put up before the House by means of supplementary demand. It cannot be presumed by any stretch of imagination that the execution of the work is being deferred on account of any monetary considerations. As soon as the conditions permit we shall start this work without any delay. Besides, my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh has drawn the attention of the Government towards the question of political rights of backward classes among Sikhs. That is already being keenly felt in Sikh circles. So far as the question of language to be adopted in the East Punjab is concerned, a resolution to this effect is already before the House. I hope that a unanimously agreed solution will be found so that controversy on this question may end. I must say that everybody should have sympathy with the backward classes among Sikhs. Equal opportunities to them are already being afforded in the matter of education as to Harijans among Hindus, as stated by our hon. Minister, Shri Prithvi Singh Azad the other day. So far as our political rights are concerned the Constituent Assembly has to determine them. We also can, however, discuss these and try to find a solution of the problems facing us.

It has been said, Sir, that there is communalism in services. When we make this complaint we should not forget that some hon. Members ask questions of a purely communal nature. Those very members, who complain of communalism in services are foremost in putting questions of this nature. What can you expect from the services under these conditions? It has been asked, for example, as to what is the proportion of various communities recruited to the National Volunteer Corps. When recruitment is made on grounds of merit, some of my friends are still not satisfied. These gentlemen condemn communalism and at the same time express dis-satisfaction with recruitment made on merit. We cannot put an end to communalism in this way. A great effort will have to be made for doing so. Unless communalism is completely wiped out from our minds, our country can make no progress. In order to achieve this object, we have to do several things. Sardar Sajjan Singh objected to the fixation of any communal proportion in the services. He was pleased to say that the observance of this principle was necessitated by the Panthic Party having joined the Congress. Through you, Sir, I wish to draw his attention to what happened in Madras a few

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days back in connection with the recommendations of Diwakar Committee Report where it was laid down that recruitment to services should not be made on communal basis. Madras Government set aside that recommendation and decided that the prevailing principle of communal proportion in services should be continued. There is no Panthic Party in Madras. This system does not exist in the East Punjab only. It is observed in all the provinces. In the services under the Central Government also, a communal proportion has been fixed for the protection of the rights of minorities. I wonder why some hon. Members believe that such a thing exists only in the East Punjab. In the case of services, to which recruitment is not made through the Public Service Commission, even the Central Government has fixed a communal proportion. They have laid down that Muslims should be given 13.5 per cent, Harijans seventeen per cent and other smaller minorities ten per cent share in the Central Services. Some gentlemen have tried to exhibit themselves as more patriotic and nationalistic, which in fact they are not, than even Sardar Patel and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It has been conceded by every one that on one side something has to be done to win the confidence of minorities, and on the other hand we should go on ending gradually the system of recruitment on communal basis. In the United Punjab, all posts were filled on the basis of communal proportion. If to start with, our hon. Premier decides to make recruitment to twenty per cent of services on basis of merit and ability, we should give him credit for this and such a decision should not be disliked by anybody.

As regards the Panthic Party having joined the Congress, I wish to make it clear that this decision was arrived at after full deliberation under the leadership of Sardar Baldev Singh. This step was not taken with any mental reservation. Since then, we had to face many a difficult situation. Sometime back there was agitation by the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh in the whole country including the East Punjab. Recently Akali agitation took place in our province. Law and order was challenged by these activities. The Government has always acted jointly to face these movements. The hon. Premier rightly stated this the other day that all our decisions in such cases were arrived at unanimously. There is no ground for doubting the truth of the statement made



by the hon. Premier. In this connection, I am reminded of a Punjabi saying :—

ਬਕਰੀ ਜਾਨੋਂ ਗਈ, ਖਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਵਾਦ ਨ ਆਇਆ ।

ਬਕਰੀ ਜਾਨੋਂ ਗਈ ਖਾਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਵਾਦ ਨ ਆਇਆ ।

I wish to inform the hon. Members, through you, Sir, that the members of Panthic Party after joining the Congress Party have never done anything, which is not in keeping with the policy of the Congress. We have never asked for any reservation or special concession or gift and shall never make any demand for such gifts which is opposed to the Congress principles. If, according to the Congress, the demand for creation of separate Provinces on linguistic basis is legitimate, we shall also make it. If the Congress declares that such a demand is improper, we shall not make it. I assert that we never asked for reservation of seats or any special rights if they were not consistent with the high principles and ideals of the Congress. As I have already stated, if the Congress decides to create provinces on linguistic basis we will also put in our claim but not otherwise. Now that the Constituent Assembly, which represents the view-point of the Congress has accepted the idea of reserving seats for the backward classes of the Hindus, I think it is within our rights to ask for reservation of seats for the backward classes in our community especially when we don't want any additional seats but are prepared to give them from our own quota. I do not know how such a thing smacks of communalism and why it should prove harmful to the general interests of the country. I refer my hon. Friends to a publication of the Central Government named "India's Minorities" which deals with what the Congress Government has done for the minorities. The Government as this book shows feels proud of the treatment it is giving to the minorities. I have certainly no hesitation in saying that such a pride becomes the Congress if it protects and safeguards the legitimate rights of the minorities. We the members of the old Panthic party have joined the Congress at the persuasion of Sardar Baldev Singh for advancing the interests of the country in the new order of things. Hon. Members must have read the statements of our leader, Sardar Baldev Singh, in various papers in which he has clearly said that we will not ask for any special concessions but shall insist on the uplift of the rural population and the backward classes. I entirely agree with him and I would request my hon.

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Friends not to suspect our bona fides. It is certainly unjust on the part of our critics to disseminate doubt and suspicion with respect to us in this House or in the newspapers. I reiterate that we have joined the Congress as soldiers of this organization and shall contribute our utmost to make its programme and policy a success.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** As a result of the Panthic members joining the Congress the critics have not been able to set up a Ministry as they desired and that is why they feel offended.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to bring a few facts regarding the Police to the notice of the Government. There is no doubt that the high officers of this Department are very able and efficient but so far as the lower officials up to the rank of Sub-Inspector are concerned, the country people are fed up with them. In the first instance, they do not register the complaints that are made to them and if they are kind enough to do so, they do not take any action. The notorious offenders, they do not touch at all and appear to be afraid of them. They perhaps think that the offenders wield influence in the higher quarters and may be in a position to harm them. This is a very sorry state of affairs. I would in these circumstances request the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue to instruct the Police officers to cease to be led by the advice of their old counsellors. They should now be asked to take the help of responsible and public spirited gentlemen. During the riot days some of the Policemen also took an active part in the general loot and plunder. As a matter of fact they were the leaders of the robbers and thieves. Now they don't take any action against offenders as they have been all companions sometime. The offenders possess plenty of unlicensed ammunition and would commit murders even for trivial matters. An hon. Member who a little while ago said that one may be stripped of his clothes if he ventured to go to Ferozepore, was absolutely correct. There is no law and order in the province. The hon. Lady Member Shrimati Sita Devi who is not in the House now was right in saying that abduction of girls was on the increase and nobody's honour was safe. Only the other day three or four girls were carried away from a village in my part of the province. The communists are working havoc with the peace of the province and nobody appears to be concerned about it. Their propaganda is gaining strength every day. The other day some absconding communists held a meeting in a village in my ilaqa and no action was taken against them. The Police started its investigation after the meeting had dis-

persed. What is the good of such an investigation? It is like locking a stable when the steed has been stolen? I think if the activities of the communists and other offenders remain unchecked, our Government may also have to suffer the fate of Burma. These people must be severely dealt with and no mercy should be shown to them. Only then people will have some sense of security. Our law and order should be so perfect that people should forget the days of the British rule when it was said that a woman laden with ornaments could go about at any place and at any time without any fear. But I am grieved to say that the public are not satisfied with the present Government. They think that this is a degenerate Government and I shall illustrate it with a story.

Once a Raja of a small State while sitting among his courtiers inquired of them as to whether his rule was better than that of his father. All of his counsellors spoke highly of his rule. An aged and grey-haired person who was not a counsellor replied that besides the rule of the Raja he had also seen the days of his father and his grand father also and would relate an incident to explain the point. He said that during the regime of his grandfather he once went to the Kumbh fair at Hardwar. There one night he came across a beautiful girl wearing many ornaments who had lost her way. He took her to his camp and asked the women folk to make her comfortable for the night. The following morning she was taken to her relatives. The father of the girl was very happy to get her back and offered him a handsome reward but he did not accept it saying that he had only done his duty and the matter finished. But after his grandfather had died, that is in the days of the father, he remembered the incident and thought that he should have at least accepted the reward offered or taken possession of the ornaments before he restored the girl to her people. Now when the father had died and the Raja became the ruler of the State he felt sorry not only for the ornaments but even for the girl whom he could have kept for his pleasure. He said to the Raja that he could himself judge as to whether his rule or that of his father was better. In the same way, Sir, and in view of the mentality of the people having become low you can yourself judge what people think of this Government.

The people who did not indulge in loot are now feeling sorry on that account. The gentle and the innocent are finding it very hard to live. The moral character of the people is at its lowest ebb. The people who freely indulged in loot and murder during the days of disturbances are now the most influential people in the villages. Similar is the case with regard to the refugees. The wicked are feeling quite at ease

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

while the gentle and the innocent are suffering. The people who lived in a questionable manner on the other side are quite comfortable even here. They commit robberies and at times succeed in getting even permits from the rich men. They are the most influential people in the villages. The morals of the people and Government officials have fallen very low and life is corrupt. Government gave loans to the refugees. As a matter of fact the advances have not actually reached the poor. Greater part of them has been usurped by the agents of the officials like the Tehsildars. If a refugee was sanctioned a loan of Rs. 200 the major part of that sum was taken by those agents and the poor man was left as he was. My hon. Friends who live in the villages know that these loans have not actually reached the hands of deserving refugees. Besides this, they have become idlers and moral wretches by living in the refugee camps. Those who went somewhere else and took to labour or service are better off both financially and morally than those who live in the camps.

Now I come to the question of corruption prevailing in the services. In this connection I would like to submit that the departments which are entrusted with the work of dealing with anti-corruption have become corrupt themselves. They think that they should also make hay while the sun shines on them. The Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Civil Supplies and Health Departments etc. freely indulge in malpractices and are not punished by the Government. Their monthly salary is only Rs. 200/- or say Rs. 250/-, but two or three months after their appointments they begin buying cars. I wonder where these motor cars come from. The Inspectors who are posted in the villages get their share of 10, 20 or forty rupees from the petty shopkeepers. In this way they earn more than the Ministers themselves.

I would like to show this packet of brown turmeric to the hon. Members of this House. It belongs to a poor shopkeeper of my village. The Sub-Inspector of Health Services posted in our ilaqa went to inspect the shops of my village. He collected samples of turmeric from the shopkeepers in sealed packets and later returned their respective packets to those shopkeepers who bribed him. This packet belongs to that poor shopkeeper who refused to bribe him. As a result of that he was challaned for keeping in his possession this turmeric, although it was ground at his house and was not brought from outside. That poor man was prosecuted and fined in spite of the fact that he had

offered that packet to be tested and if any adulteration was found he was prepared to undergo imprisonment. But nobody listened. All this I think is due to loose morals of the people. The officers who are corrupt are generally very elegantly dressed and whosoever does not respect them is put to trouble.

The Government by passing the defective Sales Tax Act in the last session of the Assembly has created all the more trouble for the poor shopkeepers in the villages. If they do not get the licences up till April the Inspectors will create hell for them. Even petty hawkers will be put to a great inconvenience. The petty shopkeepers in the villages cannot maintain correct accounts of their sales. They, therefore, will be put to a great deal of hardship, and the trade and commerce of the province will greatly suffer.

Again there are Inspectors of Weights and Measures. The price of a set of weights ranging from half a Chhatank to two seers has been fixed at Rs. 7/- though its cost is only Rs. 2 and some people are prepared to supply the same for Rs. 3/- or Rs. 4/-, but the contractor who stamps the balance bars will charge seven rupees for the stamping thereof and four rupees as licence fee. After two years the weights have to be changed and rods to be stamped anew. This will mean additional expenditure for the poor shopkeeper. The people are very hard hit by this measure of the Government, and then there are the Inspectors who will put the public to a still greater hardship.

6. p.m. Paper will be taxed according to this Sales Tax Act, while the printed paper would be exempted. This means that dealers will get it printed from Delhi, etc., and in this way the press labour will receive a setback with the result that the stationery and printing business will also go out of this province.

Sir, I think I have stated simple facts. There is nothing wrong in saying that people are in a miserable plight. We are sitting here ignorant of everything that is happening in villages. The conditions in the province especially in the rural areas are not at all satisfactory. Thefts, dacoities and murders cases increased. There appears to be complete lawlessness.

Another important thing which I must point out to this House is that the old machinery of the Government has not changed according to the needs of the time. The mentality of the officers has undergone very



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little change. They think that those very people whom they used to arrest, are now holding the reins of the Government. They have not adgusted themselves to this change. So they don't like the new machinery. They don't listen even to our just demands and complaints. Without any letter from an hon. Minister, no heed is paid. No officer cares for the poor M. L. A. In this regard, the position of the members of District Board was better than that of the present day M. L. A.

Another source of great resentment among the public is the bad quality of flour supplied to them and the traders got depots with great difficulty after approaching the officers. I know that at Jullundur, Madan Flour Mill is making profit at the expense of depot holders. It charges more and so the margin of profit for the depot holders is reduced to a nominal figure. So how can the depot holder be honest? He naturally suffers. In Alawalpur some congressmen started a depot but they had to run it at a loss. The profit goes to the millowner? He charges Rs. 1/9 - on gunny bag which he presumably buys for six annas from the market. So what can the depot holder earn? Naturally he mixes gram and becomes dishonest? If he asks the millowner to change the torn bag, he kicks him out. It may be he is a relation of the Deputy Commissioner. Everyone says that atta is bad but nobody tries to find out as to who is responsible for this. The stock holders or agents charge Rs. 25 for a tin of Kerosene oil, and the petty shopkeepers in villages who sell it in bottles according to the purchase price are abused by the public. Moreover, Sir, those people who indulge in blackmarket have been given depots, while those nationalists who remained in jails are not given any depot on the pretext that they are inexperienced in this line. How could they get such experience in jails? The officers should be instructed not to make such distinction. But as a matter of fact the officers don't care for such instructions, they are the enemies of this regime. They don't follow the orders issued by higher authority. The morale of the officials and the people has gone low and there is corruption all round. In this state of affairs communism will find a root, unless we deal with a strong hand. But we are ourselves weak, we are after reshuffling of Ministries. Some wish to get in and others have the fear that they might lose their positions. The question of reshuffling raises its hand every now and then. In this state of affairs nobody can pay attention to the grievances of the poor. Prestige of the Ministers has come to low level. Strange stories have been concocted about them with the result that the officers do not care to obey the orders of the Ministers. They have been



their enemies. The question of reshuffling that arises again and again is responsible for the slackness of Government machinery. So we must have a stable and strong Government. We should not fight over trifles. These everyday bickerings should be put a stop to. Good people usually help and support the good, but contrary is the case in our province where the unruly and the undesirable are feared and respected. The up-rooted people who have lost everything are feeling great inconvenience and difficulty in getting any housing accommodation. Further I wish to submit that in these hard times the low paid Government servants drawing from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per month find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. I would suggest to the Government to enhance their salaries which would help them in their present difficulties. I wish to mention the grades of some low paid Government servants which are as follows :—

	<i>Grade</i>
Orderly	25-1-30
Bailiff	30-1-35
Nazir	50-3-80-4-100
Civil Nazir	80-5-110-5-150
Foot constable	40-1-50
Head constable	55-3-85

The allowances which the Government have sanctioned are as given below :—

Salary	Allowances
Rs. 50	Rs. 25
Rs. 50 to	} Rs. 35
Rs. 100	
Rs. 100 to	} Rs. 40
Rs. 150	
Above Rs. 150	Rs. 45

We find that the low paid Government servants whose salary is less than Rs. 100 are drawing less allowances. They do not get the temporary allowance while the Government servants drawing over Rs. 100 get temporary allowance which is equal to double increment. Low paid Government servants thus are hard-hit. I would once again request the Government to enhance their salaries. I would suggest that the pay of orderly, bailiff, foot constable and head constable should be the same.

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Now about the procedure adopted by the Government in the collection of the Sales Tax. There is a shopkeeper in my village whose name is Shri Jagan Nath. He has only one shop while he is paying the Sales Tax of two shops. One Sub-Inspector paid a visit to his shop and made the assessment. After a day or so another Sub-Inspector came and he also made the assessment. This poor shopkeeper owning only one shop has been asked to pay the Sales Tax according to the assessment made by both the Sub-Inspectors. He represented to the authorities with the request that he was not prepared to pay whole amount of the Sales Tax assessed by the two Sub-Inspectors separately as he had only one shop. He was asked by the authorities to institute an appeal in the court to this effect after crediting the double assessed amount in the Treasury and so he did. The case came in the court of the A.D.M. who ordered re-assessment of his only one shop which he owned. The required assessment was not made and no action has since then been taken by the concerned authorities. The poor shopkeeper has been repeatedly requesting the authorities to issue orders for the re-assessment of his Sales Tax and refund of over payment, but all his efforts in this connection have proved futile. For years together neither his shop was assessed nor refund made. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for Public Works, whose presence has reminded me of certain irregularities prevailing in some departments under him. The felled trees belonging to the Public Works Department which can be used as timber or fuel are never to be seen on the road side. One does not hear even about their auction nor can one know how these are sold out. All such wood is sold through under-hand means and corrupt practices. May I know if the hon. Minister has ever seen any felled trees lying on the road-side?

**Minister for Public Works :** There is a definite check on this procedure.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Poor and needy refugees might be taking this wood as well.

**Minister for Public Works :** An enquiry is being conducted against an Executive Engineer and no one can remove a single branch of a tree without proper permission.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** If our Government wants to do some useful and constructive work in the sphere of administration, then I assure them that they will have our full co-operation and sympathy.

The undesirable element which hampers the Government in its day-to-day administration, should be completely wiped out. Such unhealthy elements should be properly checked before they are in a position to upset the present Government and create confusion in the Province.

**Chaudhri Samar Singh** (Karnal South, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):  
Sir, I happen to belong to that village which has neither a Railway Station, nor proper roads, nor even any depot. As such there is widespread dissatisfaction amongst the inhabitants with regard to the present Government. There was a time when people had full faith in the Congress. They spared no pains in making the Congress candidates successful in the elections. But the condition at present is such that these very people do not hesitate to receive us with great disrespect. The reasons put forward by them for this unhealthy change, are based upon the inefficiency and corrupt practices resorted to by them. Of the officers, they even go to the extent of saying that the old Government of slavery was better than the present Government of liberty and freedom. The reasons for this are quite clear to the hon. Members. The first is corruption, which is rampant in every department, and the second nepotism and favouritism. These two evil practices are increasing day by day. Here I am reminded of a verse which runs as follows :—

मर्ज बढता गया जूँ जूँ दवा की ।

भरत घबडा गिआ नुँ नुँ रवा की ।

To elucidate my point, let us for example take the Civil Supplies Department. This Department was almost wound up through the efforts of the Father of the Nation. This department is being resurrected for the good of the millions of ill-fed and poverty-stricken people. But unfortunately this is far from truth, for it benefits the favourite few only. I can say from personal experience that even justice is not within the reach of poor people living in villages.

Well, Sir, if a referendum is held to ascertain the opinion of the rural people about controls, I am sure they would vote against this system barring the few who are somewhat influential. All these controls have been imposed in the name of the poor, but they are doing more harm than good to them. In every district about fifty appointments were made by the Civil Supplies Department. All these appointments were made by the officers concerned and I doubt if even one person was taken on the basis of merit and ability. No Selection Board was formed to

[Chaudhri Samar Singh]

select candidates but the matter was left to the discretion of the individual officers.

I am just reminded of what an I.C.S. Officer, with whom I am on friendly terms, told me sometime after the partition. He told me that it would not take them long to make the Congress Ministers and Leaders follow them, and approve what they (the officers) wanted to do. I feel, Sir, that what my friend said is proving only too true. Not very long after the congress came into power, the old bureaucrats started grumbling that owing to the interference of Congress committees, their secretaries and presidents, they were finding it impossible to carry on the work of administration. Complaints of Congress workers interfering with the work of administration were constantly dinned into the ears of the highest authorities. What was the result? They succeeded in their object. The then Congress President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, issued a directive to all the Congress Committees to the effect that Congressmen should not interfere with the work of administration. Later on, the hon. Premier issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners and S. Ps., to pay no heed to Congressmen. In the beginning, I mean for sometime after the achievement of independence, the officers did show some deference to what we suggested, and paid some regard to the wishes of the people. Now, again, they are having their own way in every matter and are doing whatever they like. They have succeeded in making the Ministers dependent on them. They have brought them round to their own views. They have made our Ministers realize that they are indispensable. They have made our leaders realize: "you cannot do anything without our co-operation". What is the result of all this? Even in smallest matters the Ministers are being guided by the old bureaucrats. They have not the courage to take a single step without consulting them.

Now, Sir, I revert to the Civil Supplies Department. Not a single appointment in our district has been made by this department on the basis of merit. Some Congressmen were also candidates for these posts and were also called for interview. But despite the fact, Sir, that all of them were well qualified, not a single Congress worker was selected. I know why they were not selected. The Civil Supplies Officers knew that if any Congress worker entered their offices, he would prove a thorn in their sides. The Congress workers were rejected because the appointing officers feared they would disclose all their doings and so they would not be able to carry on their mal-practices. This is happening in every

Department. Congressmen are rejected everywhere, for these reasons. Many complaints have been received by the Congress Committees about the unwillingness of officers to appoint Congressmen. The Officers prefer to appoint those persons who are either their own relations or the nominees of their relations and friends because these people prove good tools in their hands. Such persons always prove inefficient, careless, and corrupt. They do not care for anybody since they know they have the backing of their officers. They intimidate the public by telling them that they are connected with a certain Minister through some relative. So the people think it useless to complain against them.

Now I might say something about the working of the offices of the Civil Supplies Department in the districts. I am a member of the District Committee of Civil Supplies Department, but I have not been able to attend most of its meetings because the intimation was sent to me after the meeting had taken place. When I enquired the cause of this undue delay, it was stated that there was no post office in my village and so the letter was delivered to me late. If a notice about the meeting had been got published in the newspapers, I would have certainly reached in time to attend it. But since the Civil Supplies people did not want me to attend the meeting, they deliberately posted the letter after the meeting had been held and trotted out the lame excuse that there was no post office in my village. Again a meeting was held on the 18th, but the intimation letter was posted to me on the 19th. This is clear from the stamp on the second letter that was sent to me. The people in the Civil Supplies Office do not know even my name. On all the three letters that I have so far received from them, my name is not correctly written. They do not know whether I am a member at all. They do not want me to attend the meetings because they fear lest I should criticize their work and activities. Once I told an Inspector in the presence of the Textiles Officer that permits had been issued only to those persons who had greased their palms. On hearing this, the Textile Officer directed the Inspector to make a re-distribution of permits by lottery with a view to giving a fair chance to all applicants. Two months have elapsed since then but no action has been taken in the matter. The original distribution of permits continues unchanged. It has not been revised.

Sir, what I want to emphasize is that the prevalence of these malpractices and corruption is the outcome of favouritism. It is the evil which breeds corruption. I am definitely of the opinion, Sir, that if we want to checkmate the spread of communism in this country, we



[Chaudhri Samar Singh]

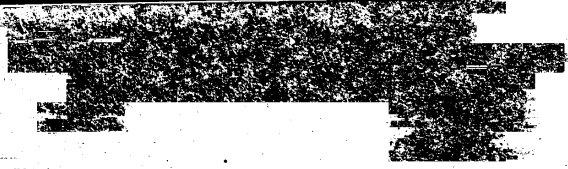
shall have to give a fair deal to labourers and peasants who are the real nation-builders. (*Cheers*). They do not demand anything big from us. They do not shirk work. They are prepared to do more hard work. They do not want to be wealthy. All that they want is justice and fairplay, and reasonable remuneration for their toil. (*Cheers*). The hon. Premier has agreed that there should be a depot at every seven miles in the rural areas. This means that all the villagers living within a radius of 7 miles will have to come to the same depot for purchasing their quota of cloth. I feel, Sir, that this arrangement to say the least, does not suit the people living in villages. Among them there will be widows and orphans i. e. families without any male adult. Are they expected to travel 7 miles to purchase their quota of cloth? Take the case of peasants and labourers who constitute the bulk of the population in villages. Supposing they absent themselves from work for one day and travel all the way to the depot, and reach there a bit late and are told to come on the next day or the depot holder happens to be out of stock and they have to come twice or thrice to the depot, would that not mean loss of so many working hours and loss of production? Is this thing desirable in these critical times through which our country is passing? Now supposing the average income of a labourer is Rs. 2/- per diem, can he be expected to absent himself from his work for three or four days and thus lose six to eight rupees, in order to purchase his quota of cloth at a slightly cheaper rate than the rates of the open market, from a depot several miles away from his village? Further, supposing there are 6 villages catered by one depot and there are two hundred families in each village, and one adult member from each family has to absent himself for one day with a view to purchasing the cloth, would it not mean a loss of Rs. 2400/- to the village people? It is a fact, Sir, that they are thoroughly dis-satisfied with the scheme of cloth rationing and distribution, as it is working in villages. It is absolutely useless for them. Of course, it is operating to the benefit of the depot holder. It overlooks the interests of the people. I wonder why the depot holder who is earning a good income, is not asked to go to every village by rotation and distribute the cloth? Why should the villagers be made to waste their time and take so much trouble in order to get their quota of cloth? It is a matter for regret, Sir, that while the number of Inspectors has been increased, the number of depots has been reduced to sixty or seventy, whereas, formerly, there used to be a depot for every three or four villages, in all about one hundred and fifty. Their difficulties have, therefore, been aggravated. There is



considerable unrest among the people on this account. Why should the convenience of a depot-holder be kept in view and the loss of thousands of rupees of the poor labourers and peasants be ignored, simply because the former has succeeded in getting permit for a depot by ~~pleasing~~ <sup>treating</sup> the palm of the officials? It is time that our Government took some steps to end favouritism and nepotism. Otherwise, the Congress Party of this province which has already earned a bad name for itself owing to the existence of dissensions in its ranks, will lose its hold on the masses. In all services, favouritism is rife. The Government employees are being promoted and reprimanded on the basis of not their work but their political views and leanings. Even the most unpardonable misbehaviour on the part of persons who belong to the same party to which the head of the Department belongs are being excused.

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, 21st March 1949.*



# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 21st March 1949

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### SUPPLY OF MANURE TO CULTIVATORS AT CHEAP RATES

**\*714. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether the Government has any scheme in hand to provide increased supplies of manure to cultivators at cheap rates ;
- (b) Whether the Government has any scheme in hand for the training of cultivators in the better preparation of manures from local materials, and if so, how far its execution has progressed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Sing Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes—A scheme for the manufacture of compost both from the town refuse and village waste materials in operation in East Punjab and work is in progress in 588 villages and in almost all important towns. The work in rural areas will be extended gradually to other villages. It is the duty of the staff employed on this scheme to train cultivators in the methods of converting village waste material into compost manure. During the year 1948, 42974 tons of compost was prepared in villages and 3060 tons in towns.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please let me know the names of a few villages where the manufacture of compost is in progress ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice as there are 588 villages where the manufacture of compost is being carried on,

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Then will he tell us the names of some villages in the Ambala Division ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for this.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please tell us any village or place in the Ambala Division where under the Government scheme manure is being manufactured ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The manufacture of manure is in operation in almost all the important towns of the districts and in 588 villages in the province. It is difficult to give their names off hand,

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is he in a position to tell us the name of even one village in the Ambala Division ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No, not without notice.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know how much organic nitrogen is available in the province for purposes of manufacturing manure ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This does not arise out of the question. However, if he gives notice, enquiries will be made.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that important ingredients of manure are being exported to other provinces ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is an expression of opinion.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that certain important materials essential for the manufacture of manure, are not being utilised in the province and are being exported to other provinces ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is giving information.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Sir, I want to know whether what I have asked, is within the knowledge of the Government. My supplementaries depend upon the reply of the Government.

**Premier :** Does the hon. Member want to know whether compost is being exported ?

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I want to know whether organic nitrogen, so essential for the manufacture of manure, is not being utilised in this province and is therefore being exported to other provinces ?

**Premier :** Sir, I think the hon. Member is giving information about a certain article. He should give notice, if he wants any information on the subject.

#### TRACTORS IN THE PROVINCE

**\*752. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of tractors purchased by the Provincial Government ;
- (b) the amount spent on the purchase of these tractors ;
- (c) the number of tractors, if any, supplied by the Central Government or any contribution made by it towards their purchase ;
- (d) the number of tractors allocated to each district of the Province ?
- (e) the date of arrival of tractors in Ambala district ;
- (f) the total amount of land tilled by the tractors allotted to Ambala district ;
- (g) the period during which the tractors remained in Ambala district ;
- (h) whether the period of stay of all the tractors allotted to Ambala district is uniform, if not, how many tractors were sent out and where, together with the reasons therefor ;
- (i) the number of days each tractor operated during its stay in the district ;
- (j) the number of days each tractor remained idle and the reasons therefor ;
- (k) the number of applications together with the addresses of applicants received by Agricultural Assistants in each Tehsil of district Ambala for the tractors ;
- (l) whether all the applicants could avail the service of these tractors, if not, the number of such applicants who could not, and the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Eight.
- (b) Rs. 1,56,006/-.
- (c) The Central Government have agreed to work 120 tractors in East Punjab. 49 have been received and 71 are expected shortly.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

- (d) The tractors are not allotted districtwise. They have been sent to the Deputy Directors of Agriculture, for use within their circles wherever work is available.
- (e) 1st week of May, 1948.
- (f) 1416.01 acres upto 1st week of February, 1949.
- (g) (i) One tractor from May, 1948 upto date.  
(ii) Two tractors from May, 1948 to December, 1948.  
(iii) One tractor from May, 1948 to September, 1948.
- (h) First Part. No.

Second Part. The tractor was sent to Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi, towards the end of September, 1948, as no tractor has been left in that circle after the return of old tractors to Central Government.

Two were sent to Ram Raj, District Muzaffarnagar in December, 1948 to afford relief to Puhjabi refugees in U. P.

- (i) to (1) The information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be supplied when ready.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that there existed an acute demand in Ambala for tractors before they were sent out? May I also know why Government ignored this public demand when the tractors were needed for the use of Punjabi refugees?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The hon. Member should know that in the East Punjab, the refugees were allotted 12 acres of land per family and tractors could not be usefully employed there. The tractors require large areas to be ploughed and that is why they were sent out.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** May I know whether these tractors were acquired for helping the land-lords?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They were meant for all including tenants.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know whether these tractors are exclusively meant for refugees or meant for all?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are meant for all, but preference is given to the refugees.



**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know whether the lands on which these tractors are used, are held mostly by Government or by Government and other individuals ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are used on lands mostly belonging to Government, but can also be used by individuals provided they are available.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell us how much work have these tractors performed on Government as well as private-owned lands ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for this.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the districts or circles to which these tractors have been allotted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There are three circles, namely, Hansi, Jullundur and Gurdaspur, where these tractors have been sent.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please let me know whether before sending the tractors outside the province, Government had fully satisfied themselves that the province did not stand in need of them or that the needs of the province had been fully met with ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I can only say that they were sent outside the province to meet the demands of the Punjabi refugees.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether any refugee in the province derived any benefit from these tractors ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, Punjabi refugees settled outside the province have derived benefit from the tractors in question.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether persons other than refugees living in the East Punjab are debarred from using these tractors ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No, they can utilise them provided they are available.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether before sending the tractors outside the province, Government made any endeavour to find out that they were no longer required by our people ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As I have already stated, these tractors were sent outside the province because they were wanted for the use of Punjabi refugees. Obviously Government is keeping the interest of the refugees in the forefront.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether these tractors were sent in view of the interest of the province as a whole or in the interest of certain individuals ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In the interest of the refugees as a whole.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know whether at the time when the tractors were sent out, it was ascertained that the province did not stand in need of them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every aspect of the matter was considered, and the interest of refugees was kept foremost.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know whether the Government considered the desirability of giving preference to the refugees in the province in the matter of placing tractors at their disposal ?

**Minister for Development :** All the refugees are treated alike, irrespective of the fact that they are settled in the province or ilaqas near the province, of the East Punjab.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** How many of these tractors were given to Hansi circle ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Is the Government aware of the fact that some of the tractors that were sent out of the province were used by persons other than the refugees ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is not a fact.

#### AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*754. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Agriculture Farms together with acreage attached to each one of them in the Province;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of such Farms together with the income accruing therefrom during the year 1948-49 ;

- (c) the number of Research Farms in the Province together with the research work conducted at each Farm;
- (d) the number of seed centres with names of places where situated in each tehsil of the Ambala district;
- (e) the number of agricultural implements received by the Agriculture Assistant, Ambala district together with the number of such implements sold to the cultivators at Mulana during the year 1948 ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:

(a)—(d) Statements containing the requisite information are laid on the table.

(e) <i>First part.</i> Chop-cutters	—	100
Phalas	—	2500
<i>Second part.</i> Chop-cutters	—	5
Phalas	—	500

Statement No. 1.

Item (a) The number of Agricultural Farms together with acreage attached to each one of them in the province.

Item (b) The total expenditure on each of such Farms together with the income accruing therefrom during the year 1948-49.

Name of the farm	Area in acres.	Estimated expenditure during 1948-49.	Estimated income during 1948-49.
		Rs.	Rs.
<i>I Experimental Farms.</i>			
1. Agricultural Station, Gurdaspur.	263	58,590	30,000
2. Agricultural Station, Jullundur.	56	35,730	12,000
3. Agricultural Station, Ambala.	99	32,870	12,000
4. Agricultural Station, Hansi, District Hissar.	589.57	48,320	28,000
5. Fruit Farm, Attari, District Amritsar. (Experimental).	101	1,800	Not available as yet.
6. Bee Farm, Nagrota, Distt: Kangra (Experimental)		16,990)	1,400
7. Bee Farm, Katrain, Distt: Kangra(do)		10,250)	
8. Tea Farm, Palampur, Distt:Kangra(,,)		13,970	1,550

## [Minister for Development]

9. Sugarcane Research Station, Jullundur	53	Not available as yet	27,000
10. Millet Breeding Station, Ferozepore.	100	-do-	8,000
11. Groundnut Sub-Station. Samrala, District Ludhiana (Research)	31	14,740	9,200
12. Fodder Sub-Station, Sirsa, District Hissar (Research).		39,850	5,000
13. Rice Breeding Sub-Station, Kulu		Not available as yet.	Not available as yet.
14. Linseed Breeding Sub-Station, Kangra.		-do-	-do-

*II District and Demonstration Farms.*

1. District Farm, Ludhiana (Partly Experimental)	54.54	8,610	3,600
2. District Farm, Karnal (-do- -do-)	98	22,900	6,000
3. District Farm, Rohtak	100	6,750	6,500
4. Agricultural Farm, Beas (Distt:Amritsar)	36	250	1,000
5. Agricultural Farm, Gurgaon (Mostly Experimental)	100.72	Not available as yet.	Not available as yet.
6. Agricultural Farm Gommur, Distt: Kangra.		5,500	1,000

*III Seed Farms.*

1. Seed Farm, Abohar, Distt: Ferozepur	2236	23,810	55,000
2. Seed Farm, Sirsa, Distt: Hissar.	407	5,390	8,000

Apart from these, three farms viz. Seed Farm, Jamalpur, District Gurdaspur (area 495 acres), Seed Farm, Jundla, District Karnal (Area 1000 acres), Seed Farm, Shamsi (Kulu Valley) District Kangra (area 38 acres) have been handed over to this Department during this year. Income will accrue during the next year.

*Statement No. 2,*

Item (c) The number of Research Farms in the Province together with the Research work conducted at each farm.

*(A) Research Farms.*

1. Sugarcane Research Station, Jullundur.
2. Sugarcane Research Station, Gurdaspur.
3. Exploratory Station for Cigarette and Hooka tobacco, Ferozepur.
4. Exploratory Station for Cigarette and Hooka tobacco, Jullundur.
5. Tea Research Farm, Palampur, District Kangra.
6. Vegetable Research Farm, Jullundur
7. Fruit Research Farm, Attari, (District Amritsar).
8. Potato Research Farm, Palampur, District Kangra.
9. Cotton Research Sub-Station, Jullundur.
10. Cotton Research Sub-Station, Hansi, District Hissar.

11. Maize Breeding Research Station, Jullundur.
12. Groundnut Breeding Sub-Station, Samrala (District Ludhiana).
13. Linseed Breeding Sub-Station, Kangra.
14. Gram wilt Research Station, Ferozepur.
15. Bee Keeping Research Station, Nagrota, } District Kangra.
16. Bee Keeping Research Station, Katrain, }
17. Fisheries Research at Batala, District Gurdaspur.
18. Soyabean Research Station. Ludhiana.

(B) *Research work being conducted.*

At all Research Stations dealing with crops experiments are being conducted to evolve high yielding varieties of seeds of better quality. Apart from the evolution of improved varieties, varietal, rotational, Hydranlic, Manurial and cultural experiments are also conducted on different crops to find out the best methods and practices for different Agricultural regions. Research in Fisheries consists in the investigation of the important problem of studying the factors influencing the spawning of Indian carp under controlled conditions. Research on Bee Keeping is carried on the following items :—

1. Studies on the behaviour of the Indian honey bee—*Apis Indica* F.
2. Commercial and Migratory Bee keeping.
3. Bee Breeding.
4. Pollen Collection.
5. Pollination.
6. Bee Flora.
7. Nector concentration and Bee Biometry.

(d) The number of seed centres with names of places where situated in each Tahsil of the Ambala District is given below :—

*Ambala Tehsil.*

<i>Name of Place.</i>	<i>No. of seed Agencies.</i>
1. Ambala City	2
2. Shahpur	1
3. Naggal	1
4. Durana	1
5. Barara	1
6. Mullana	1

*Neraingarh Tehsil.*

1. Naraingarh	1
2. Sadhaura	1
3. Shahzadpur	1
4. Bhanodi	1
5. Raipur Rani	1

*Jagadhri Tehsil.*

1. Jagadhri	1
2. Mustafabad	1
3. Buria	1
4. Bilaspur	1
5. Khizarabad	1

[Minister for Development]

*Kharar Tehsil.*

1. Kharar	1
2. Mani Manjra	1
3. Mubarakpur	1
4. Kalka	1
5. Kurali	2
6. Mullanpur Gharibdas	1
7. Landhran	1

*Rupar Thesil.*

1. Rupar	2
2. Ghanauli	1
3. Morinda	1
4. Chamkaur Sahab	1
5. Bela	1
6. Khant	1

Total No. of agencies in Ambala district. 32.

AMOUNTS DUE FROM THE WEST PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

**\*613. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount due from the West Punjab Government to the East Punjab Government as a result of the partition together with the details of this amount;
- (b) Whether the East Punjab Government ever communicated to the Government of India the total amount due and requested them that this amount be deducted from the total sum of rupees fifty five crores which was paid to the Pakistan Government by the Central Government last year ; if so, with what result ?<sup>1</sup>

WHEAT PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT IN DIFFERENT  
MARKETS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT

**\*615. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the dates on which wheat was purchased by Government in the different markets of Amritsar district during Rabi 1948.
- (b) the price paid per maund on each of these dates together with the names of the markets from which the purchases were made ;
- (c) what were the rates of wheat in each of these markets on the dates referred to in part (a) above according to the entries in the books of the marketing Committees of these places ;

1. For reply Vide Appendix



- (d) whether higher prices were paid by the Government for purchasing the wheat than those entered in the market in the Committees books; if so, the amount paid in excess together with the reasons for payment of the same ;
- (e) what was the total quantity of the wheat purchased and the total amount paid in each of these markets in 1948 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Necessary information is given in table I.<sup>1</sup>
- (b) Necessary information is given in table II.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) The lowest and the highest rates on the dates under (a) above as per market committee's record in mandis of Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Patti are given in table III.<sup>1</sup> Rates in respect of Rayya and Gehri markets are not available.
- (d) Reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.
- (e) The required information is as follows :—

Sr. No.	Name of Market	Total quantity of wheat purchased	Total amount paid.
		Mds.	Rs-As-Ps.
1.	Amritsar.	34,567-32-8	4,43,416-12-6
2.	Tarn Taran.	44,696-0-15	5,66,464-13-0
3.	Patti.	28,092-16-7	3,55,530- 7-6
4.	Rayya.	11,121-23-4	1,41,230- 7-6
5.	Gehri.	6,221-12-13	77,130-10-3

#### WHEAT DISTRIBUTED FOR SEED PURPOSES TO AGRI- CULTURISTS IN NOVEMBER 1948 IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

**\*616. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the average price per maund paid by Government for the wheat purchased during Rabi 1948 from the different mandis of Amritsar district ;
- (b) the average cost per maund for local purchasing and stocking this wheat uptill November 1948 in the Amritsar district;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government after purchasing the wheat stocked it at the same place ;
- (d) whether any wheat out of this stock was distributed amongst the agriculturists as seed in November 1948 ; if so, the price charged for it ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (e) whether it is a fact that the Government charged higher price for the wheat per maund than the actual cost price ; if so, the reasons for the same ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the price charged per maund for the wheat supplied at the Fair Foodgrain Shops opened in the urban areas was Rs. 15/- per maund but the price charged from the agriculturists who purchased wheat for seed purposes was Rs. 23/- per maund ; if so, the reasons for this discrimination ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) The required information is given below :—

Sr. No.	Name of the mandi where wheat was purchased.	Average rate per maund paid.		
		Rs.	As.	Ps.
1.	Amritsar	12	13	2.9
2.	Tarn Tarn.	12	11	2.1
3.	Patti	12	10	5.9
4.	Rayya	12	11	2
5.	Gehri	12	6	4

(b) The necessary information is given below.

Sr. No.	Name and mandi	Average cost per maund for purchasing and stocking this wheat upto November, 1948.	
		Rs.	
1.	Amritsar	1-7-6	} These include Mandi charges, cost of transport from the Mandi to the Government Godowns, expenses on storage and cost of administrations.
2.	Tarn Taran	1-6-6	
3.	Patti	1-6-3	
4.	Rayya	1-5-9	
5.	Gehri	1-6-2	

- (c) Yes, subject to its movement to other places as and when required.
- (d) Answer to part one of the question is in the affirmative. Rs. 19/- per maund were charged for this stock from the Agriculture Department.
- (e) Yes, higher rates were charged for specially selected stocks as the remaining stocks depreciated in value. Moreover, Government was anxious to ensure that stocks distributed for seed purposes were not resold at a profit, or utilized for other purposes. It, therefore, decided to charge prices nearer the actual market rate, so that there would be no tendency to re-sell.
- (f) The price charged per maund for wheat supplied at the Fair Grains Shops is Rs. 15/14/- inclusive of retailer's margin. The

stocks were made over to the Agriculture Department and it is understood that Rs. 23/-/- were charged by them for these stocks. The reason for this has already been stated under item (e) above. Government proposes to distribute the profit thus accrued in the form of subsidies refugees in the purchase of seed-grain.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** May I know what was the retailer's margin per maund ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Is the hon. Member sure that the reply to this question is not there already ?

**Premier :** I require notice.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** From the figures that have been supplied I find that the maximum cost price paid by the Government was Rs. 14/3- but the selling price was Rs. 19/-. May I know the reason why the Government charged so much ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member refers to part (a) of the reply, he will find the reason.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I have read the reply. (*Interruption*)

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** May I know why replies to supplementary questions are given in a light-hearted manner ?

**Premier :** If and when questions are put in a light-hearted manner, the replies are given in the same tone.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Before giving wheat for seed purposes, were the zamindars asked to make applications ?

**Premier :** Wheat for seed purposes was distributed by the Agriculture Department ?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is the Agriculture Department not a part of the Government ?

**Premier :** That is why it was given that work.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the excess amount of money that has been charged from the zamindars be returned to them ?

**Premier :** I have already stated that that amount will be given to the refugees in the form of subsidies.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Why have the zamindars been selected to bear the burdan in the form of this excess payment ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member is perhaps sure that suggestions from many quarters have been made to levy tax and thus help the refugees.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** But why should only those zamindars be made to bear the burden who bought seed-grain ?

**Premier :** After all when a particular tax is levied somebody has to bear it.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** What was the difference in the price of wheat which was sold in the form of foodgrain and that which was sold as seed grain ?

**Premier :** I require notice for that,

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** The hon. Premier was pleased to remark that refugees will get subsidies out of the profit made by the Government, may I know the excess amount per maund which those upon whom this burden has fallen had to pay ?

**Premier :** I can supply the information only after the accounts are complete.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the Government consider the desirability of returning the excess price charged from the zamindars over and above the controlled price ?

**Premier :** I have already stated in my reply that the price that was charged was nearer the actual market price so that if the zamindars were to buy the seed grain from the open market, they would have paid the same price.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** What about the refugees who bought the seed ?

**Premier :** I have repeated that they would get help in the form of subsidies from the profits accrued.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Does the Government realise that by selling wheat at Rs. 23/- per maund which was purchased at Rs. 12/- the Government has broken the record of the Bengal Government during 1942 famine ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mehta, Ranbir Singh :** Was the cost price taken into account when the exorbitant selling price was fixed ?

**Premier :** My reply is already there and I have nothing to add to it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF CEMENT IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

**\*738. Pandit Mohan Lal .** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the quantity of cement allotted to Hoshiarpur district by the Government for distribution among the public in the year 1948;
- (b) the total number of applications for cement that were registered with the C. S. O. Hoshiarpur in the year 1948;
- (c) the names of such applicants who were granted permits or were recommended for permits by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur and the quantity of cement sanctioned to each one of them;
- (d) whether it is a fact that about 500 bags of cement were granted to one L. Bhagwan Dass Sud of Hoshiarpur city, if so, whether the advice of the Civil Supply Committee was taken in this matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) 7878 bags were allotted by Government during the year 1948 out of which only 1862 bags were actually received.
- (b) Six hundred and thirty eight.
- (c) Lists are placed on the table.<sup>1</sup>
- (d) Yes. Lala Bhagwan Dass Sud was allotted 500 bags of cement for the construction of new godowns and for repairs to the existing ones. The allotment was made on the recommendations of the District Food Controller and the District Engineer Hoshiarpur. The advice of the Civil Supplies Advisory Committee was not sought in view of the nature and urgency of the demand.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** Sir, from the list supplied to me I understand that some people have been given cement in very large quantities whereas . . . . .

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1. Kept in the Library

**Mr. Speaker:** The information is before you, you can judge for yourself.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Premier kindly state whether it is a fact or not that certain people have been given very large quantities of cement whereas hundreds have not got any cement at all?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a question of opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Sir, it is a question of fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has been given the statement now; it is a matter of opinion whether a certain person has got a large quantity of cement or not.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** May I know from the hon. Premier why the distribution of cement has not been just ?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member must resume his seat after putting his question it is only then that the hon. Ministers can reply.

**Premier :** I can assure the hon. Member that cement has not been given to any-one unnecessarily in large quantities. Cement is allotted to individuals in accordance with the recommendations of the advisory committee. In the particular case which the hon. Member has in mind 500 bags of cement were given to this particular person because it was needed for the construction and repairs of wheat godowns. If it had not been supplied in sufficient quantity and at the proper time that would have caused damage to the wheat.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** In the list supplied to me I see that Sant Hari Singh got 30,000 bags, one Sewa Singh got 3900 bags and so on why these persons were given cement in such large quantities ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member looks at the list carefully he will agree with me that there is no need for the question that he has asked. He is reading from the list of those persons who were recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur for the grant of cement permits in 1948. The number of bags given to any one individual during 1948 does not exceed 50.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know if any uniform basis was adopted for distributing cement ?

**Premier :** The allotment of cement is made on the recommendation of the advisory committee.



**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Had Government given any instructions or laid down any basis according to which cement had been distributed ?

**Premier :** The instructions were that the distribution should be equitable.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Was all this cement given to persons who were in this line previously ?

**Premier :** This cement was for consumption and not for sale.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is this advisory committee appointed by the Government or the District Magistrates ?

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#### ALLOTMENT OF QUOTAS OF IRON, STEEL, YARN ETC

**\*761. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) the names and addresses of persons who were previously in the trade and have been allotted quotas of iron, tin, steel and yarn together with the quantity in each case during the year 1948;
- (b) the name and addresses of such persons who were previously not in the trade but have now been allotted quotas of iron, tin, steel and yarn together with the quantity allotted in each case during the year 1948 and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names and addresses of those who applied for the allotment of quotas of iron, tin, steel and yarn during the year 1948, for one or more of these articles ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** It is regretted that the information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

#### APPOINTMENT OF WHOLE-SALE DEALERS IN CLOTH

**\*762. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the names and addresses of persons who were previously not in the trade but have now been appointed whole-sale dealers of cloth by the Government and the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Wholesale licences are issued only on the basis of the applicant having been in the trade before.

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PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

**\*763. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether the parliamentary secretaries have been given any powers and any work to do so far ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of the Starred Assembly Question No. 387<sup>1</sup> asked during the last Autumn Session.

CASES AGAINST THE CORRUPT OFFICIALS

**\*780. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state.

- (a) the number of officers against whom cases of corruption have been started;
- (b) the details of punishments that have been awarded to officers against whom the charges have been proved.
- (c) Number of such officers against whom the charges have since been with-drawn ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Cand Bhargava :** It is not clear from what date the information is desired nor has it been stated whether information is required in respect of all Departments or any particular Department or in respect of all kinds of cases whether dealt with departmentally or judicially. If the question is more definite, information can be collected and given.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED MAGISTRATES

**\*782. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of such retired magistrates who have been re-employed by the Government together with the reasons therefor.
- (b) the number of magistrates temporarily recruited from among the lawyers together with the number of those whose services have since been terminated.
- (c) the reasons for not making sufficient fresh recruitment to the P. C. S. ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) Eighteen. The P. C. S. ( Executive Branch ) Cadre has been depleted on account of

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<sup>1</sup> Vide Vol III Page 138 supra

the demands made on it by the Government of India, Rehabilitation and Civil Supplies Department, etc. In order to make up this deficiency Government had to re-employ as a temporary measure retired provincial Civil Service officers with experience of magisterial work.

- (b) Twenty two. Two lawyer magistrates have been permitted to resign and two have died since the partition. Eighteen are still in the employment of Government.
- (c) The question of fresh recruitment to the P. C. S. has already been taken up and a competitive examination was held in January last. Steps are being taken to recruit officers for this service on other registers as well viz. promotion from Tahsildars, Naib Tahsildars and ministerial Government servants, etc.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier tell the House how long this system of employing retired magistrates will continue?

**Premier :** Retired magistrates were re-employed temporarily because of their experience of work. When the new recruitments have been completed there will be no need to retain the retired people.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What are the difficulties in the way of new recruitments?

**Premier :** I have already said in part (c) of my reply that the question of fresh recruitments has already been taken in hand. Competitive examination was held in January and we are awaiting results and that steps are also being taken to recruit officers from Tehsildars and ministerial Government servants by promotion. Retired people will not be needed after we have recruited new officers.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Instead of employing the retired P.C.S. persons why did not the Government employ refugee lawyers?

**Premier :** We wanted these posts to be filled temporarily and therefore experienced persons who had retired from service were employed.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** There are experienced lawyers amongst the refugees ; they could have been employed on these jobs.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a suggestion and opinion.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Has the Government received any complaints that retired persons who were employed on magisterial work did not take interest in their work?

**Premier :** If there are such complaints against some they would have been dealt with.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Were those Magistrates who had a bad reputation during their service also re-employed after retirement ?

**Premier :** There may be some against whom people had complaints when they were originally in service and they may have complaints even now.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** People were fed up with the A.D.M. Rohtak and he had so many complaints against him but he has again been employed without any date having been fixed for termination of his service. Why ?

**Premier :** No one has been re-employed indefinitely. As soon as new recruitments have been completed, the re-employed persons will go away. If there are complaints against any officer we make enquiries but it does not mean that the complaints are always correct.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Are there, amongst the re-employed persons, any who were merely honorary magistrates?

**Premier :** There is only one honorary magistrate. He was employed because of his reputation for good and honest work. People of his ilaqa including the hon. Members of this Assembly recommended him and he was re-employed.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I take it that at that time no experienced stipendiary magistrate was available to fill that post?

**Premier :** Yes, the hon. Member is right. No stipendiary magistrate was available to fill that post and the honorary magistrate because of experience and popularity in his ilaqa was given that post.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Were the candidates who were re-employed medically examined?

**Pandit Faqir Chand :** May I know if the magistrates who were employed from amongst the lawyers will be retained in service or not?

**Priemer :** The question will be decided after examining their work up to April.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that such magistrates have been re-employed who were communally biassed and had communal propensities? Is it also not a fact that previously their superior officers had complained of their being communal in dealings and outlook?

**Premier:** We re-employed people after having thoroughly examined their records.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether it is a fact that the record of some of the re-employed magistrates has not been satisfactory and yet they have been offered re-employment?

**Premier:** In the first place we do not re-employ those whose record is not considered satisfactory by us and secondly we terminate their services if complaints received about them are found correct.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** In view of hon. Premier's reply, may I know how many re-employed persons have so far been sacked?

**Premier:** If the hon. member gives notice, I will collect the information.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Premier please state the number of Rai Sahibs and Rai Bahadurs among the magistrates who have been re-employed?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Under the present set up official recognition of titles has ceased to exist.

**Premier:** The present practice is that no titles are used in the official papers or correspondence.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that certain Deputy Commissioners have expressed their extreme dissatisfaction with the work of the re-employed magistrates.

**Premier:** I think if the Deputy Commissioners feel dissatisfied they should make a report to me and not to the hon. members?

**Shri Virendra:** Is it not a fact that the title of 'Sir' is added to the name of the Governor?

**Premier:** It is not added. Only the title of 'His Excellency' is added to the Governor's name.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Is it within the knowledge of the hon. Premier that an officer has been re-employed, who had fired and done to death six Rai sikhs at Ferozepore?

**Premier:** If the hon. member gives notice, I will make enquiries.

**Chaudhari: Kartar Singh:** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that a certain magistrate has been re-employed who had earned a very bad name for himself during the Akali movement on account of the atrocities that he committed?

**Premier:** I require notice for this. I cannot reply off-hand.

**Shri mati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** May I know how many honorary magistrate have been re-employed?

**Premier:** Only one.

**Shrimati Shanno Davi Sehgal:** May I know why, in the matter of re-employment, refugee lawyers have not been given preference over the honorary magistrates who were considered to be the henchmen of the British rule?

**Premier:** I have already stated that that magistrate was re-employed on the recommendations of certain M. L. As as well as other public men.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the experiment of the Government regarding the employment of lawyers as magistrates has proved a success or an utter failure?

**Minister:** Government does not consider it proper to displace practising lawyers and appoint them in short term vacancies lasting for three or four months. It is neither in the interest of the administration nor in the interest of the lawyer who is appointed. As a matter of fact Government stands to gain by appointing retired hands in the short term vacancies. Firstly the pensions of the re-employed are kept in abeyance for that period and secondly they are useful for shorter periods on account of their past experience.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the lawyers have themselves refused to accept service or their employment has not proved a success?

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Will the hon. Premier please disclose the names of those M. L. As who recommended the re-employment of that magistrate?

**Minister:** Better not expose them.

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#### ANTI CORRUPTION BOARD

\* 784. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased state whether Anti-Corruption Board has ever considered the



complaints of corruption received by it against the officials above the rank of heads of districts ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chend Bhargava:** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the hon. Premier is in a position just to give us an idea or a synopsis of the work done by the Anti-corruption Board ?

**Premier :** This does not arise out of the original question. All the same I am prepared to make a statement about its activities. But I propose to refer to it at length during my speech on the General Administration.

#### COMMUNAL PROPORTION IN SERVICES

**\*785. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any communal proportion has been fixed in the recruitment to Government services in the Province; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any communal proportion is to be observed in promotions and postings also?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer<sup>1</sup> given to starred Assembly Question No. 653 asked on the 7th March 1949.

#### STAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN WINTER IN SIMLA

**\*786. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:—** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the snow-fall and bitter winter this year, most of the high officials including the hon. Ministers remained for most of the time away from Simla in the plains.
- (b) whether the subordinate staff was given the option to leave Simla for a part of the winter, if not whether they were given any compensation ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopichand Bhargava :**

- (a) No. There have been two snow-falls during the winter this year. In the first one almost all the hon. Ministers and officers were

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1. Vide page 516 supra

[Premier]

here. In the second some were here and others had to go down to plains to attend important meetings and conferences in the course of their normal tours.

- (b) No. Government servants posted to head quarters have no option in the matter of their stay elsewhere and the question of compensation does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact or not that during winter at Simla hon. Ministers and higher officers spend most of their time in plains to avoid rigours of cold while the lower establishment stay on here ?

**Mr. Speaker :** What sort of information does the hon. Member require ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I want to know whether the Government has ever cared to consider the matter that it is most undesirable for the higher officers and hon. Ministers to go down in the plains and create dissatisfaction in the minds of the lower establishments?

**Premier :** I have already replied to this in part (a) of the question.

#### STAY OF MINISTERS IN SIMLA AND PLAINS

**\* 787. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the number of days spent by each of the hon. Ministers at Simla and in plains during the last three months i. e. December 1948, January and February 1949?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** The information asked for is as below:-

	Number of days spent during					
	December ' 48		January ' 49		February ' 49	
	At Simla	In plains	At Simla	In plains	At Simla	In Plains
Hon. Premier	12	19	23	8	9	19
Hon. Minister for Home & Revenue	4	27	14	17	6	22
Hon. Minister for Rleief & Rehabilita- tion	4	27	10	21	3	25
Hon. Minister for Public works	23	8	22	9	15	13

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Hon. Minister for Labour & Excise	15	16	21	10	8	20
Hon. Minister for Development	4	27	10	21	3	25
Hon. Minister for Finance	16	15	16	15	8	20

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** In view of what has been stated by the hon. Premier and in view of the fact that Ministers spend most of their time in plains, does the Government consider the desirability of having the capital somewhere in the plains?

**Premier:** Had the hon. Member kept in view the circumstances under which Simla was selected to be the temporary capital of the East Punjab, he would not have felt the necessity of putting this question. At the time of partition in August, 1947, we were determined not to leave Lahore, but the hon. Viceroy and the Governor General of India ordered us to shift from there and decided that Simla was to be temporary capital of the East Punjab. There was another very important point and that was that there was no other place in the East Punjab where about 3 or 4 thousand Government officials could be accommodated both for office as well as residential purposes. Even in Simla all the East Punjab Government offices could not be located for want of adequate accommodation and some of the offices had to be scattered. During the winter of 1947, when Ministers and some Government officials were obliged to move down to Jullunder on account of disturbances in the province, only two Secretaries and about 200 clerks could be taken there. I may inform the House that those officials had to keep their families here at Simla and sleep in the office rooms during night keeping their luggage in the verandahs during day time. All this was necessary because refugees had to be provided with residential accommodation. If it was difficult to provide residential accommodation for 200 clerks, hon. Members would no doubt appreciate how impossible it was to provide accommodation for 4000 officials. Even now in spite of the fact that Simla is a non-refugee station, it has not been possible to provide residential accommodation for 70 % clerks although all the offices of the Government are not here. Now that steps are being taken to build the capital, temporary hutments kacha houses will be constructed and even tents will be pitched up so that Government can move down.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** Did the Government ever consider to have Kartarpur or Kapurthala as temporary capital ?

**Premier :** Kapurthala is not in East Punjab.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Why do the Ministers feel the necessity of going to the plains during winter months only ?

**Premier :** We had to attend the Premiers' Conference and other conferences at Delhi. Moreover there were meetings of Cabinet, Emergency Council, Cabinet and the Rehabilitation Board during the month of February at Jullundur. At times we had to work till 1 a.m. In addition to these we had to attend the Cabinet meetings also. For all this work we had to go down.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In the Rehabilitation Board there were only two Ministers. What about the others ?

**Premier :** I have said Rehabilitation, Board Cabinet Emergency Council and Cabinet meetings.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Because of the fact that the low-paid clerks and chaprasis have to remain at Simla compulsorily, have the Government taken into account the heavy expense that they have to incur for coal and fuel during winter months ?

**Premier :** They get hill allowance and now co-operative stores will be opened for all.

**Shrimati Sita Devi Sehgal :** If during a period of ten months in a year meetings can be held at Simla why were the meetings of the Rehabilitation Board held at Jullundur ?

**Premier :** I may inform the lady member that about 3,000 people are working in the Rehabilitation Department and all the papers and records are at Jullundur and those records are required for reference during the meetings of the Board.

**Shrimati Sita Devi Sehgal :** Meetings of the Rehabilitation Board were held for four days only and only two ministers were present.

**Premier :** All the Ministers were present in the meetings of the Cabinet.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do the Ministers go on tour in plains during winter months for rehabilitation work or for any other work as well?

**Premier :** The Ministers have to perform many important duties and for that they have to go on tours.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have the Ministers got no other work except delivering lectures and enjoying dinners and parties?

**Premier :** Has the hon. Member got no other work except criticising the Ministers in season and out of season? The Ministers are doing all the work connected with the administration of the province and that too successfully. (*Hear, hear*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** They are no doubt doing successfully the work of spreading hatred amongst the people of the province.

**Premier :** Everybody knows those people who create dissatisfaction under the grab of good-will missions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** You have created so much ill-will that no good-will mission can succeed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. The next question.

#### DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE

**\*811. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Priemer be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from the District Boards Teachers Association that the Government should take over District Board schools in the Province;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

(a) Yes.

(b) The East Punjab Government constituted in September last year, a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials. It was set up in order to review the system of grants-in-aid to local bodies for Vernacular education and also to examine the question of taking over of the administration of local body schools. The representations received will be placed before the Committee, for consideration, in its next meeting.

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#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES

**\*812. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state Whether it is a fact that the Government have evolved a new formula regarding communal representation in service; if so, the details thereof?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** No. The matter has been under the consideration of Government but no final decision has yet been made.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CADRE  
COMMITTEE

- \*815. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—
- (a) the recommendations of the Cadre Committee appointed by the Government last year;
  - (b) what steps the Government have taken to implement decisions of this Committee?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

- (a) a copy of the printed Report of the Cadre Committee is placed on the tables.\$
- (b) most of the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by Government and action has already been taken. If any change is proposed to be made in the Cadre as given in the report, the case is decided by the Cabinet.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know what were the recommendations of that Committee which were accepted by the Government?

**Premier:** All the recommendations were accepted by the Government.

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OPENING OF NEW DISPENSARIES

- \*816. Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-
- (a) the number of dispensaries opened in rural areas during last one year;
  - (b) the names of the places where such dispensaries have been opened?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:**

- (a) Two.
- (b) 1. Katani Kalan, Ludhiana District.  
2. Chak Sherewala, Ferozepore District.

**Shri Virendra:** Were only two dispensaries opened in the rural areas during the whole year?

**Premier:** My reply is there.

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\$ Kept in the library



TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR PATWARIS AND POLICE  
CONSTABLES

**\*827. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) the rate of travelling allowance drawn by the gazetted officers in East Punjab;
- (b) the travelling allowance to which the low—paid Government servants, e.g., Police Constables and Patwaris etc. when they move out of their headquarters on public duty are entitled;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow travelling allowance to all low—paid servants when they are on tour on duty.

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

(a) the rate of travelling allowance admissible to Gazetted officers while on tour is as under:-

- (i) For a journey by rail they are entitled to mileage allowance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fares of the appropriate class by which they are entitled to travel plus half daily allowance for the days of departure and arrival including days of departure from and arrival at headquarters.
- (ii) For a journey by road they are entitled to a daily allowance of their grade if the journey performed is less than 20 miles. If journey exceeds 20 miles on any one day they are entitled a mileage allowance for the entire period of journey plus half daily allowance for the days of arrival and departure as in the case of rail journey.

(b) The low paid Government servants are in the matter of travelling allowance treated like all other Government servants and they draw travelling allowance according to the grade fixed for them.

Police constables and Patwaris are, however, like other Government servants mentioned in Appendix E to the Travelling Allowance Rules, not entitled to any travelling allowance for a journey on tour within their sphere of duties except for a journey by rail or steamer, under rule 2.54 of the Travelling Allowance Rules, since their pay has been so fixed as to compensate them for the cost of all journeys other than journeys by rail or steamer within their sphere of duties. Police Officers below the rank of Inspector can, however, draw travelling allowance for a journey performed by them by motor Omnibus or other road vehicles either within or beyond the sphere of duties provided the Superintendent of Police certified on the travelling allowance bill that the journey was necessary in the public interest and no other form of travelling allowance has been drawn.

[Premier]

(c) As mentioned in (b) above, there is now no distinction between superior and inferior Government Servants in the matter of travelling allowance. The question of amending the rule therefore does not arise.

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REMARKS AGAINST PATTI POLICE MADE BY  
KANWAR SURINDER SINGH

**\*618. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks made by Kanwar Surinder Singh, Magistrate, Patti against the Police, in his order dated 27-10-48, discharging the accused S. Sohan Singh s/o S. Bishan Singh, S. Gian Singh Ramgarhias of ward No. 8 Patti town of Amritsar district who had been challaned by the Patti Police under section 107/151 Criminal Procedure Code on 18-5-1948 vide case No. 143/4;
- (b) what action if any, does Government propose in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter is receiving the attention of the Police authorities, and suitable action will be taken in due course if considered necessary.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Since when is this matter under the consideration of the Government ?

**Minister:** The hon. Member has himself given the date of the order.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Has the Government any idea how long it will take to decide the matter ?

**Minister:** We have decided to examine the matter and the whole thing is being examined. Action, if considered necessary, will be taken in due course.

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STOPPING OF COMMUNAL SPEECHES AND WRITINGS IN  
THE PROVINCE

**\*777 Shri Pabrodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that highly

provocative speeches have been delivered by Master Tara Singh recently;

- (b) what steps, if any, the Government has taken or propose to take to put a stop to the communal speeches and writings in the Province?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Government have seen a large number of speeches of Master Tara Singh but none of them was considered actionable under the law.
- (b) Instructions have been issued to District Officers reminding them of their duty to carefully examine all speeches and writings and if any of them are found actionable to deal with them according to the law and orders of Government.

**Shri Probodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the Government received a large number of representations from the people that the speeches delivered by Master Tara Singh were likely to inflame communal feelings ?

**Minister :** I do not recollect having received a large number of such representations.

**Shri Probodh Chandra :** Ask the Premier.

**Minister :** The hon. Member is not entitled to point out to me to refer to the hon. Premier or any one else while replying to any question.

It had been pointed out from certain quarters that certain speeches delivered by Master Tara Singh were objectionable. But in order that a speech may be actionable it must come under the mischief of some law. Many speeches are made by us which are not liked by many people but action can only be taken when a speech contravenes the provisions of some law.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is it not an offence to inflame communal feelings? Has the speech delivered by Master Tara Singh at Jullundur come to the notice of the Government ?

**Minister :** Many speeches of Master Tara Singh came to the notice of the Government but it is not clear to which speech the hon. Member refers.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Was there a different treatment in the case of Master Tara Singh?

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**Minister :** The suggestion is quite wrong.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Did the Government of India bring to the notice of the Punjab Government that the speeches delivered by Master Tara Singh were likely to create communal feelings in the province?

**Minister :** Nothing like that happened.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** The speeches which are considered objectionable where are they sent for legal advice ?

**Minister :** To the law officers of the Government.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** How many speeches of Master Tara Singh were sent for legal advice ?

**Minister :** I do not remember.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Are the speeches sent to the Advocate General or the Legal Remembrancer for advice ?

**Minister :** Such speeches are sent to the Legal Remembrancer for advice.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Did the Government issue instructions to the district authorities to keep an eye on the speeches which are likely to inflame communal feelings in the province?

**Minister :** I have said in part (B) of my reply that they were reminded of their duty, instructions are already there, that they should carefully examine the speeches and writings which were likely to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the province and take action against the persons responsible for such speeches and writings.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Did the Government receive any report from any district authorities that the speeches of Master Tara Singh were likely to disturb the communal atmosphere of the province?

**Minister :** No.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Did the Deputy Commissioner Jullundur write to the Government that the speeches delivered by Master Tara Singh were communal and therefore, a danger to the peace of the province?

**Minister :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received reports of some other speeches which are likely to inflame communal feelings?

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is about Master Tara Singh's speeches only.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, if you look at part(e) of the question you will find that it relates to other speeches and writings also.

**Minister :** Reports about such speeches and writings always continue to come in.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there an increase or decrease in such reports?

**Minister :** There is some decrease in them.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** All our ills are treated in the Centre.

**Minister :** I do not agree with my hon. Sister.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the speech of the hon. Sardar Patel delivered at Ambala on 5th March in which he said that they took action against Master Tara Singh after waiting and watching his activities for a long time?

**Minister :** I was present at the meeting in which the hon. Deputy Prime Minister made the speech referred to by the hon. Member and I understand what the hon. Sardar Patel said at that meeting. The interpretation put by the hon. Member is wrong.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Does the hon. Minister remember that I personally told him at Jullundur that the speech of Master Tara Singh was not in the interest of communal harmony in the province?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Has the Government received the reports of the speeches delivered by Master Tara Singh in the Gurdwaras or have, only the reports of those speeches which were delivered by him outside, come to the Government?

**Minister :** Reports of speeches made in religious places are not taken but some information reaches the Government even of those speeches which are delivered in the Gurdwaras and other sacred places.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER GRIEVANCES OF AYURVEDS AND HAKIMS

**\*1072. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

implement the assurance given by him on the floor of the House during the last Session of the Assembly to redress the grievances of Ayurveds and Hakims?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** Bill for the registration of Vaidyas and Hakims will be introduced during the current session; and this Bill, I trust, will meet the grievances of Ayurveds and Hakims.

#### DEMANDS FOR GRANT

##### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**Mr. Speaker:** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the Demand for Grant with respect to General Administration.

**Shri Virendra** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, there was a time when, while discussing the Demand for "General Administration," we used to strain every nerve in pointing out and criticizing the weakness and defects of the Government. The reason for this was that we were 4 P.M. then under a foreign rule. We used to be on the look-out for an opportunity to discredit our foreign rulers, because we wanted more than anything else the end of foreign dominance over our country somehow or other. Times have since changed. To-day, in spite of our differences with our Ministers, in spite of our disapproval of the policies of the Government at times, in spite of our opposition to the behaviour of some of its officers, we can say that our own people are in power and that the Government is really our own. Whether it is good or bad, it is ours and we have no hesitation in calling it our own. So whenever we do not see eye to eye with it on some matter or have some difference of opinion or hold divergent views or want to criticize it, we have to think and ponder before making any remarks and keep this fact constantly in view that we are not criticizing an alien Government. So our criticism has necessarily to be of a friendly and constructive nature. It is not proper for us to criticize our Government for the sake of criticism. It is keeping this thing in view that I am going to express my views to-day on this demand for grant.

Well, Sir, in my opinion, there are two aspects of this matter viz., the question of policy and the voting of this demand. So far as the Government is concerned, it has to demand money for the various departments. It is, however, for us to see whether the demand is justified or not, whether we should vote for it or not. Before giving our approval to this demand, we have to see whether



funds under this demand were, during the current year, properly spent or not and whether there is a likelihood of their being properly utilized in the forthcoming financial year or not.

Sir, before I say anything about the general administration, I would like to say a few words about a particular provision made under this demand. The subject I am going to broach is a very delicate one. What I am going to say concerns some of my friends here and partly myself too under the demand which is before the House to-day. A provision has been made for the salaries and travelling allowances of Parliamentary Secretaries. A sum of Rs. 9,000 has been earmarked for their salaries and a sum of Rs. 10,000 for their travelling allowances. We also see that while in the Budget for 1948-49, provision of Rs. 7,000 was made for the travelling allowance of Parliamentary Secretaries, in the Revised Estimates this amount has been raised to Rs. 35,000. If this can serve as a guide for the future, we might expect that the amount earmarked for their travelling allowances in the next year's Budget would be raised to Rs. 50,000, in the Revised Estimates. Sir, it is far from my intention to deprecate the importance of this institution, I mean, the Parliamentary Secretaries. I admit that they can do very useful and important work. But so far as the Parliamentary Secretaries of this province are concerned, I can say without any fear of contradiction that they are humiliating not only themselves but also the name of their province. By degrading themselves, they are not only doing harm to themselves, they are also responsible for lowering the dignity of this august House. When we see the powers, position and prestige enjoyed by Parliamentary Secretaries in other provinces and compare our Parliamentary Secretaries with them, our heads hang down with shame. While in other provinces they sometime work as officiating Ministers, the status and the work given to their compeers here in this province is no better than that of chaprasis. While in other provinces, the Parliamentary Secretaries attend conferences, represent their Governments on all such occasions and sometimes work on behalf of the Ministers and enjoy such vast powers that not even the senior-most I.C.S. officers dare question their orders and instructions, here our friends are such non-entities that they cannot ask the departmental secretaries or any other officer to show them any office file for fear of a refusal. Really, Sir, the lot of our Parliamentary Secretaries is pitiable in the extreme. I wonder how my friends are putting up with this sort of humiliating and insulting treatment.

**Voices :** Is the hon. Member saying these things from personal experience?

**Shri Virendra:** So far as this institution is concerned, Sir, I do not say that it is useless. It can be made to do useful work if the hon. Ministers so desire. Last year when they were appointed, they were told that they would be given some place here to set up their offices. For six months, they loitered about in the verandahs of the Secretariat building. When at long last they were allotted an office and they thought they would sit comfortably, new orders were issued and they were asked to go to the headquarters of their districts and stay there. I feel, Sir, that they are really doing no work and the salaries they are drawing are in fact stipends. Through you, Sir, I want to make this humble submission to the hon. Ministers and the hon. Members of this House that if this institution is to be maintained, maintain it by all means but for God's sake do not let the dignity of this august House be lowered by assigning humiliating positions to some of its Members. Though they call themselves by the exalted designation of Parliamentary Secretaries, it is a fact, Sir, that nobody cares a two-pence for them, neither the Ministers nor the officers of the Government. The only work that seems to have been assigned to them is to answer a few questions on the floor of this House. Sir, it is far from my intention to annoy them or to slight them. I have been constrained to say all this because they are hon. Members of this august House and we cannot bear the insulting treatment that is being meted out to them. If they do not have the courage to protest against the lowering of their status, we shall try to uphold their dignity since as colleagues we regard it as our foremost duty to do so. It is our duty to see how our colleagues are being treated, whether they are receiving the honour that is their due as Members of this House or not. We can't see our friends being treated as chhaprasis. Some of my friends have asked me whether what I have said about the position of Parliamentary Secretaries is not based on my personal experience. (*Interruption*). Sir, I know better than anyone else the things as they were when I was a Parliamentary Secretary. I feel, Sir, that only if our friends had shown a little boldness and courage, they would certainly have got the status which they deserve. My submission is that if this institution is to continue, they must be given some powers and functions and their duties be clearly defined. They should have the same status and command the same respect and prestige as their compeers in other provinces. If our Government can accept this suggestion and invest them with the position and powers that they deserve, well and good. If the present state of affairs is to continue, the sooner these posts are abolished, the better it would be for the province and for those who are holding them. A few more posts of chhaprasis may be sanctioned to carry on the work that they are doing. This is all I wanted to say in this connection.

Sir, I would now put before the House the second suggestion and that is with regard to the salaries of Financial Commissioner and Commissioners. Their monthly salary is Rs. 3,500/- and 3,000/- respectively, exclusive of all allowances. In my opinion such high salaries require revision and must be curtailed. I confess that the incumbents of these posts are men of outstanding ability and long standing experience and render useful service to the province and run its administration very efficiently. But when I see that there is a wide disparity between the salaries of lower income groups and these people, I feel that it is not a matter of which one can be proud. You will also find, Sir, that the salary of a Minister is Rs. 1,500/- per mensem and his secretary draws Rs. 3,000/- per mensem.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. Member want to raise the salary of hon. Ministers to Rs. 4,000/- per mensem?

**Shri Virendra:** Sir, I know that if the salary of the Ministers is raised to Rs. 4,000/-, you will be automatically benefited by that. But what I like to suggest is that the Government should formulate some scheme to revise the salaries of Government servants. The maximum limit of the salary of Financial Commissioner and Commissioners should be lowered down as it is disproportionately high. This measure of economy should be considered necessary in view of the deficit in the finances of the province. Moreover, the feeling of discontentment arising out of the disparity in the sluggish wages of the peons and the fat salaries of the highly placed officers is bound to continue so long as this disparity is there. The East Punjab cannot afford to have top-heavy administration in the province. It is, therefore, necessary to explore ways and means to curtail all unnecessary expenditure by revising the scales of salaries of highly paid officers of the Government. If this is done, the low paid employees will not have any ground to grumble.

My third suggestion is that Government should curtail the allowances admissible to Government servants such as compensatory allowance, temporary allowance, dearness allowance and house-rent allowance. These many allowances constitute a burden on the finances of the province. I would welcome if there is any increase in the allowances of poorly paid employees, but it is necessary to apply a cut in the allowances of highly paid officers. During the course of the debate there had been a sharp criticism over the purchase of an aircraft by the Government. In reply to a question it was stated by the Government that perhaps two Ministers had so far used the aircraft. If it is not to be used by all the Ministers,

[Shri Virendra]

the incurring of heavy expenditure of Rs. 1½ lakhs was not called for. I would, therefore, advise the Government to dispose it off.

So far as the general administration of the province is concerned, hon. Members have expressed their condemnation of the deplorable way in which the administration is being carried on in this province. They have remarked that corruption is rampant in almost every department and there is a slackness in the general administration. But since we have achieved independence, I consider it as our own Government and therefore I do not like to level any criticism on it. I have pointed out the shortcomings and it is for the Government to take steps to remove them. So far as the general administration is concerned, it is going on satisfactorily. But there are certain people who for some extraneous reasons try to blame the Government and consider its administration as inefficient. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the state of lawlessness which was rampant in the province following the partition of the province. The administration then was at low level. If we compare the situation today with the events of the past we would come to the irresistible conclusion that there is considerable improvement in the law and order throughout the province. I have nothing to do with the way in which the administration is being carried on in the other provinces and if their administration is at high level we are not concerned with it.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Are we going to observe any time-limit?

**Mr. Speaker:** No; to-day we are discussing the demand for General Administration.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** You can have time-limit if the House agrees unanimously.

**Shri Virendra:** Sir, I was saying that I am not concerned with the administration in other provinces-whether it is good or bad. I have to look to my own province. I can say with confidence that the situation is now much improved.

So far as corruption in the Government departments is concerned, I do not admit that this is to be found in our province only, nor am I prepared to believe that there is more corruption here as compared with other provinces. The fact is that we generally overlook what is going on in other provinces and try to magnify our own weaknesses. If any ordinary leader of the other province pays a visit to our province, we shall spare no pains in according a rousing reception to him. I do not agree with

those who hold the opinion that corruption is rampant in a large measure in our province. There is corruption in other provinces also, and perhaps more than in the East Punjab. So far as the United Provinces are concerned, I know that there have been two hundred or three hundred cases of corruption during the last year.

**Mr Speaker:** It would be better if the hon. Member avoids criticizing other provinces.

**Shri Virendra:** I was submitting, Sir, that it is not correct to say that there is more corruption in our province than in others but it exists here and to a large extent. No doubt, the Government has tried to eradicate it, but it has not been successful in its effort. Last year, the Government set up an Anti-Corruption Committee. As a result of that, however, action has not been taken against more than eight or ten officers. Enquiry against an officer of the Indian Civil Service commenced one and a half years ago but has not yet been completed. When this is the state of affairs, how can we hope to eradicate corruption? In this respect, Pakistan is much ahead of us. It has acted more boldly than us. It has taken action against the Premier of one of their provinces and sent him to jail for two years. Similar action was taken by that Government against one of its Chief Secretaries and he is now in Lahore Jail. In our province, on the other hand, enquiry against an I.C.S. officer has not been completed in one and a half years. Unless our Government takes action against and awards maximum punishment to its corrupt officers, however big they may be, corruption prevailing in the province cannot be ended. Our Ministers will have to act boldly in order to eradicate it. The main thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that it should try its best to rid our province of this evil. Other provinces can perhaps withstand it but we cannot survive if this is not completely wiped out. Other provinces are old ones and their foundations are strong. We have to build our province from its infancy and if its foundations are weak, it will not be able to live for long.

Another thing to which I wish to draw your attention is the prevailing communalism. Our officers, be they Hindus or Sikhs, are communal-minded. We have to find ways of ending this evil also. Our Ministers say that they wish to end it, but I want to tell them that they are responsible for its existence. So long as the circulars issued by the Government with regard to maintenance of communal proportion in services are there, this evil cannot end. In the presence of these circulars, our Ministers have no right to say that they are anxious to end communalism.



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They should give practical proof of their desire by ordering at once that recruitment to services should not be made on communal basis. As long as this is not done, the Government itself is responsible for encouraging communalism in services. I request the hon. Ministers to save this province from ruin. The present conditions lead the officers to believe that they can rise and flourish by resorting to communalism only. Unless the Government takes action in this direction, it has no right to say that it wishes to end this evil. This is my second submission.

The third thing which I wish to point out is that the attitude of our officers has undergone no change. I have great respect for those whose attitude has changed with the change of conditions, but a majority of them have not changed. It would be wrong to say that no officer has adapted himself to the new conditions. There are some officers who are serving the public but a majority of them behave in the old manner. The officers have made up their minds to make the Government a failure. They have conspired to bring a bad name to congress workers.

**Mr. Speaker :** 'Conspired' is a strong word.

**Shri Virendra :** I don't think it is unparliamentary. These officers have actually hatched a conspiracy to bring Congress workers into disrepute. To conceal their inefficiency, they falsely tell the people that the Congress-men do not let them act in a particular manner.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** They are quite right.

**Shri Virendra :** Your mentality is the same as that of those officers.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not my mentality anyway. You are expected to be addressing the Chair.

**Shri Virendra :** I was submitting, Sir, that the mentality of my hon. Friend is the same as that of these officers. They try to hide their mistakes and inefficiency by saying that they wished to do a certain thing but the Congress-men did not permit them to do so. This is the mentality of those officers and also of those gentlemen who were part and parcel of the old regime. These gentlemen find it convenient to talk of us as 303 but forget that they are 420. Today they find that they are losing their power and the wealth which they had amassed and the prestige which they had acquired by serving the British rulers who are fast disappearing. For these reasons they wish to bring bad name to the Congress-workers. Sir, so far as the hon. Ministers are concerned, they are doing their utmost to serve the people and make them feel that nothing would be left undone which was calculated to bring about their prosperity. But I am grieved to say that all this good work is being vitiated by the officers of Government. They on the other side appear to be striving hard to wean the public from the Ministry. This is a very dangerous act and no



Government can afford to be indifferent about it. These were the three important points which I was anxious to place before the House.

There is another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members though it does not pertain directly to the demand under discussion, and it is prohibition. I hope my hon. Friend the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad will excuse me if I say that this prohibition is the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on this province. There is no doubt that the hon. Premier and the other hon. Ministers have an earnest desire to make this scheme a success but they will not find it possible to do so. The reason is plain. After all how can prohibition be successfully enforced if big officers like the Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police etc. themselves drink and make others drink?

**Some hon. Members :** The officers perhaps think that prohibition is not a good thing.

**Shri Virendra :** I do not mean to go into the merits and demerits of prohibition. Moreover I cannot say whether it is good or bad as I do not drink myself. I only wish to say that I strongly object to the way in which the policy in this regard is being carried out. If a poor Kisan, a manual worker or a helpless Harijan, is at fault he is mercilessly taken to task but nobody takes any notice of how much wine is being consumed by the Secretaries to Government, by the Deputy Commissioners, the Superintendents of Police and others. I am sure that the scheme will not yield any fruit until the officers of Government are made to co-operate in this campaign.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Virendra says that some officers of Government drink. May I through you, Sir, ask him if he could furnish the names of officers who drink in the prohibited area i.e. District Rohtak? I trust he knows that District Rohtak is the only place where prohibition has been introduced at present.

**Shri Virendra :** The hon. Minister need not put this question to me. He is himself perfectly aware of the officers who are given to drink.

Now I wish to invite the attention of the House to the Police Department. I must confess that in spite of all the criticism that has been levelled against this Department, it has rendered very useful service to the province and we should always endeavour to give it our maximum co-operation. But there is one thing in the speech of the hon. Minister for Finance which I have not been able to comprehend and it is this:

During the current year the expenditure on Police is expected to be Rs. 2,92 lakhs. As against this figure, the expenditure estimated for the next year is

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Rs. 2,82 lakhs, the decrease being due to lesser expenditure on the purchase of arms and ammunition. Our Police force, along with the Armed Forces is employed for the protection of the border—316 miles—and a large number of pickets and striking Police reserves are being maintained for the purpose. Being a border province several security measures have had to be adopted to maintain law and order and to prevent espionage within the province.... Our present strength, therefore, is far greater than what would have been required had East Punjab not been a border province of the Indian Dominion. To maintain the Police at this increased strength is beyond the present means of this province and we have already approached the Central Government to give us substantial financial assistance to meet this increased expenditure on Police.

It appears strange that the hon. Finance Minister should ask for money for Police. While criticising the budget last year he was never weary of inveighing against expenditure on this Department. He then said:

“The second thing that I want to place before the House for consideration is the amount earmarked for Police Department. Why is it that such a big sum has been allotted for the Department? The hon. Premier has tried to reply to this question in anticipation in his Budget Speech. It has been said that we are a border province and the expenditure on Police is bound to remain high unless good will in the two Dominions—India and Pakistan—is fully established. What I want to submit however is this that if such a large sum is spent on the Police Department alone, the result would be that other beneficent Departments would suffer.

My hon. Friends must have noted that the argument for increased expenditure in this Department is the very same that was advanced last year but then it failed to convince our learned Finance Minister.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** The hon. Member is in his place now.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister should not interrupt.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Sir, I was only saying that they have changed places.

**Minister for Finance:** Sir, the hon. Minister has no right to speak on my behalf.

**Shri Virendra:** Anyhow that has not given rise to anything new.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** The only new thing is that you have changed places with him.

**Shri Virendra:** Well I don't think, it is a compliment.

Sir, so far as the question of General Administration is concerned, I think it is the foundation on which the edifice of a Government is constructed. I think that the general life of the province cannot be improved unless the General Administration is carried on on the right lines. It is, therefore, highly necessary that the Administration of our province should be flawless and free from shortcomings. It will affect not only our province but also the whole of the country. Ours is a border province today. As such if we are weak, the whole of our country will be weak. There was a time when Punjab was regarded as a stumbling block in the way of India's attainment of independence. But I can say with confidence today that if India has achieved her independence it is due to the sacrifice of the Punjab and now that freedom will be maintained by courage and steadfastness of the East Punjab alone. But this can be done only if our home affairs are going on smoothly and there is no defect in the Administration of the Government. It is, therefore, essential that our Administration should be purged of all defects and shortcomings. Now this change cannot be brought about unless there is co-operation between the Government and the people. But as ill-luck would have it, this co-operation is not visible here. The absence of it will be harmful not only to the interests of the Government, but also to the interests of every man and woman-young and old-of this province. It is, therefore, our duty to co-operate with the Government, and the Government, in turn, should try to remove the difficulties of the public. If somehow or other this co-operation between the Government and the people is brought about, it is certain that our province can become the greatest province of India and it will lead other provinces. We shall then be able to go about with our heads high with pride just as we did in the United Punjab.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have a list containing the names of 7 or 8 members who wish to speak; so I think it would be better if some time-limit is fixed for every member. Out of the time that we have, hon. Ministers would require two hours for replying to the criticism offered by the members. Therefore, we have only about an hour for the hon. Members to speak. I propose to fix 15 minutes for each member.

**Seth Sudarshan :** As the number of members who wish to take part in discussion is large, I would request you to reduce the time to 10 minutes.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** There may be others who wish to speak but their names are not in the list supplied to you, Sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order Sir, I want to know if time will be allowed to those members who have given notices of cut motions ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Not necessarily, as there is a large number of hon. Members who wish to speak. I fix 10 minutes for each speaker.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know, Sir, who has given that list to you ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not concerned with the list but I know that there is a large number of hon. Members who are anxious to take part in the debate. I have fixed 10 minutes for each hon. Member.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division Landholders) (Punjab):** Sir, it was on the 15th of August, 1947 that India got her independence after forty years of struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. He always longed for the achievement of a right type of freedom. Now we have to see whether the independence that we have got is the thing which Mahatma Gandhi wanted to bring about here or it is something else. It is in this connection that I want to say a few words. We have to take stock of our present condition as compared with that which existed before the advent of independence.

To begin with, Sir, there is the freedom from want. It means that everybody should get enough to eat and enough to put on. Besides, everybody should have a house to live in. Time was when our province was famous for milk and butter. But now these things have become rare. The hon. Members are very well aware of the shortage of cloth and housing accommodation. Some people have managed to get houses after great effort, but still there is quite a large number of people going about without any shelter.

Secondly, I come to the freedom of disease. It is the duty of the State to look after the sanitary conditions of the country and to provide for the prevention of diseases and epidemics, so that its citizens may not fall ill. If anybody should fall ill he should immediately get medical aid. But as ill-luck would have it, all the big hospitals of Lahore such as Mayo Hospital and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital have gone over to Pakistan and at present we have not got any hospital of their standard in the East Punjab. Besides, it is our misfortune that even the good physicians of our province have gone out to other provinces. Now the condition is that, if anybody were to fall ill, he cannot get the aid of a first class physician, even with money. It is regretted that no effort has been made to bring back the doctors who have gone out of the province.

Next I come to the freedom from bureaucratic rule. In this connection we have to say as to how much we are safe against the undue interference of the Government officials, the police and the magistrates etc. I need say that corruption, favouritism and nepotism are rampant in our province at this time. No steps have so far been taken for the abolition of these evils and if at all anything has been done that is inadequate. The evils have not produced any healthy effect on the life of our province. I am, therefore, constrained to say with regard to the services that the white bureaucrats of the times of the British Government have now been replaced by the brown ones of our own. The public has still to face their tyranny and high-handedness just as before. These officials do as they please and there is no check on them. Some of the hon. Ministers have no administrative experience and as such they are at the mercy of their secretaries. As a result of that the administration of the province is becoming defective.

Again, there is another curse prevailing here. It is the communal tension which we got as a legacy from the British. After the partition of the Punjab, this evil has become all the more aggressive. I think it is the services that fan this fire all the more and that is the main cause of this tension. They have been recruited on communal basis and now they find it hard to shake that label. There is no change in their mentality. If I am not mistaken, all the Government officials from the highest down to the lowest, have got communal mentality. So long as this mentality is not changed, the relations of the two sister communities cannot be improved. Another factor which helps to deteriorate these communal relations, is the press in general and the vernacular press in particular of our province. During the days of the British Government the Muslims, the Hindus, and the Sikhs read their own communal papers. This led to the creation of the communal feelings in their minds. Sir, the press divided the people into water-tight compartments. It was to a large extent responsible for giving air to communal feelings. The editors thought that in this way they could increase the sale of their papers. But now there appears to be a happy change. They have begun to realise their responsibilities. The Government of East Punjab tried to improve the tone of the press in this province, and it has to some extent succeeded in doing so.

The third question is that of the refugees, specially the Sikh refugees, a majority of whom depend upon agriculture as their mainstay. The refugees because of the sufferings and hardships they had undergone, have grievances against the Government. At every available opportunity they will have a fling at the Government. This is simple human psychology.



[Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann]

Now, Sir, I come to Police Department in East Punjab. Its work appears to be satisfactory but not so satisfactory as one would wish it to be. There are certain shortcomings. For instance, the officers may be honest but they employ wrong means in investigation of cases infusing therein falsehood to achieve the object of getting the culprit convicted. Mahatma Gandhi laid great emphasis on the fairness of means that we employ to achieve certain ends. We should learn this simple lesson from his life and doings. No efforts should be spared to infuse honesty in the Police Department. For this purpose I suggest that in every district we should create a model police station manned by the best and most honest men in the district. Whenever any crime takes place in the area under its jurisdiction, they should register a true account of the crime without any concoction or falsehood and take any action that may be justified by the facts. In all these dealings and behaviour they should be fair and honest to one and all. If this experiment proves successful it may be done on a wider scale and I am sure this will lead to purification in the administration.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, at this juncture in the history of our province I find that it is faced with three important problems. The first is the rehabilitation of the uprooted millions; second, the making up of the shortage of foodgrains; and third, maintenance of law and order. Besides these, there are problems also like education, health and other beneficent activities, which demand our attention but they are not so urgent as the first three. When I look at the General Administration from this stand-point, I feel disappointed. The hon. Premier told us that according to a pact arrived at between the two Governments, the supply of Electricity to the West Punjab Government by the East Punjab Government is to stop from 31st March. But it is a matter of deep regret to note that our officers have proved to be so inefficient and unwise that they have not been able to make arrangements for the consumption of electricity as soon as it is released by West Punjab Government. It is said that transformers have not yet arrived. They are lying at Bombay. They arrived there in February and our officers are so inefficient that they have not been able to make arrangements to bring them to Jullundur. A seth if asked to arrange such things could have done so in a very short period.

Sir, I am of the opinion that it was a mistake on our part to supply 90,000 kilowatts of Electricity to the West Punjab at a time when it was urgently needed for the development of East Punjab. Had it been kept



to be consumed in East Punjab, our uprooted industrialists would not have migrated to other provinces of India with a begging bowl in their hands. If we had kept back this electricity for our own use we would have rendered a great help to the development of Industry and Agriculture in this baby province and above all in the matter of rehabilitation of about one lakh of refugees. Of course, our Government has reaped a profit of fourteen lakhs by charging nine pies instead of six pies from the West Punjab Government but it is more than offset by the fact that it has led to non-settlement of about one lakh refugees. We should have cared more for the settlement of the displaced persons than for the profits. Sir, when the Government knew as far back as the partition of the province that West Punjab would release electricity on the 31st March, have the officers concerned been sleeping? Why did they make no arrangements for its immediate switch-on to East Punjab after 31st March? They are now putting forth lame excuses. Anyone who knows something about administration feels exasperated at this slackness of officers.

Now about the Police. I think I will be doing a great injustice to the Government if I do not congratulate it on the Police administration in the Province. Hon. Members know it full well that very recently 4 P.M. the Patwaris launched an agitation against the Government for increasing their salaries. There is no doubt about it that the constables and the head constables also happened to draw meagre salaries. Some people were under the impression that these low-paid police officials would show sympathy towards the low-paid patwaris and thus stand in the way of the maintenance of law and order in the province. They were also under the impression that these low-paid police officers would not be able to maintain discipline. But I cannot do without saying that they maintained discipline in the true sense of the word. This is not all. They also gave a proof of their efficiency in the recent R.S.S. movement. So far as the question of their serving the public is concerned, I am constrained to remark that they have miserably failed. There can be no two opinions about it that the police officers would not hesitate to detain the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue and even the hon. Premier himself. They will not be found wanting in their duty and will thus give a proof of their discipline. If we probe into this matter we will find that these officers have already been doing this work for the last twenty or twenty-five years successfully and quite efficiently. But so far as the question of serving the public is concerned, I make bold to submit that the police of our province has miserably failed.

Further our Government has given publicity to this point not only in every nook and corner of the country but also in the world abroad that

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they have constructed four thousand houses in different towns as model colonies. So much publicity is being given to the construction of four thousand houses, but no efforts whatsoever have been made to keep intact those four lakhs of houses which have been left by Muslims in this province. These houses have been destroyed and the Government cannot escape from its responsibility in this direction. However I cannot do without saying that the Police and the Revenue Departments are entirely responsible for what has been done in this connection. It will not be out of place to mention here that in my own district the wooden material of these houses was used as fuel in the kitchens of the police officers. I have seen myself the delicious dishes of the police officers being cooked with the wooden material of these houses. This is not all. This wooden material was also used in the houses of the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and the Tehsildars of my district. Sardar Trilok Singh, Director General of Relief and Rehabilitation, has himself made a statement to the effect that 48% of the total number of the houses left by the Muslim evacuees have been destroyed in this province. Hon. Members know it full well that about 46 lakh Muslims have left this province for Pakistan. If out of this number a family consisted of 5 members then the total number of houses left by the Muslims comes to 9½ lakhs. Out of these houses about 4 lakh houses have already been destroyed. I have no hesitation in saying that the Police Department is mainly responsible for this destruction.

Now I come to the question of food shortage in the province. Government has done nothing substantial in this connection. May I know from the Government as to how many tube-wells have been bored by it so far? Instances in this connection are not wanting. I shall quote an instance of my own district. Last year provision was made in the Budget for the construction of a drain in my district. I cannot do without saying that the administration of this province is in the hands of those persons who do not take any pains to do anything substantial. In spite of the fact that provision was made in the Budget for the construction of the drain, no efforts whatsoever were made to undertake this construction. I would once again request the Government to pay its attention to this fact. Today people are complaining against the doings of the Government and if no heed is paid to them, I am sure, this will result in chaos and confusion and afterwards it will be very difficult, rather impossible, for the Government to control the situation. It is therefore in the fitness of things that Government should rise to the occasion and do something substantial for the welfare of the people. If

they fail to do anything, I am sure, they will have to meet the same fate which was met by their predecessors.

It is the bounden duty of our Congress Government to keep the conditions prevailing in the country in general and our province in particular, in view and thus change their attitude for the better with a view to do something substantial for the welfare of the teeming millions. With these, words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Woman) (*Punjabi*): Sir, before I speak on the General Administration, I wish to point out that all the hon. Ministers earnestly desire to improve the administration of the province and most probably the heads of the departments may also be desirous of doing so. The fulfilment of such a desire is possible only if the grievances of the public are heard patiently and sympathetically and adequate measures are adopted to redress them. If this is not done, I am sure, the administration will not be run successfully. So long as the behaviour and the treatment of local officers towards the public in Districts, Tehsils and Villages, the only officers who come in daily contact with masses and from whose work masses have to judge the general administration, is not satisfactory, I am sure the people will continue to say that the Government is weak, inconsiderate and unsympathetic. The attitude of the officers towards the public is not commendable. As long as the Government does not train the officers in their service towards the public and as long as they are not made to understand the force of the public voice, the fire of injustice will continue keeping alive. This will have a very harmful effect. There can be no improvement in the administration unless and until people are treated with justice. Our officers work as it pleases them, because they know that the voice of the public will not reach the Government. Such officials also know that any complaint against them can generally be brought to the notice of the Government, through some local organisation and not by any particular individual. It will not be out of place to mention here that 70% of these officials have already become communalists. These officers along with other officers who still exhibit the traces of British aristocracy and hold capitalistic views, have formed themselves into a solid barrier between the public and the Government. They defame the Congress workers and their representatives by saying that they unnecessarily interfere in their official work and create difficulties for them in doing any good to the public. Thus they bring to naught the efforts made by the workers of the Congress to bring the complaints of the people against the administration to the notice of the Government. The workers of other non-communal bodies have no voice with the Government and the Government have refused to listen to the workers of

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communal organisations. Further I wish to submit that these officers are adamant against effecting a change for the better in the administration of the province. They also create an unpleasant atmosphere against us in the public.

Corruption is rampant in our province. Instances in this connection are not wanting. There are various ways and means of resorting to this evil practice. When any person goes to see an officer in connection with his work, with a view to requesting him to give a patient hearing to his case and do justice to him, unfortunately an interview is denied to him. On making enquiries from other sources he is asked to come later on. In this way he wastes a good deal of time. If he sees that he can get his work done without any further delay by greasing the palms of some concerned persons, the poor fellow is very unwillingly forced to do so. So in order to save themselves from all this botheration, the people think it better to grease the palm of the officers concerned and get the needful done promptly. Who can blame them under the circumstances ?

Now I would like to cite an instance to show the frivolous manner in which the public is slighted and the honour of the people is compromised by the official class, whether wittingly or unwittingly. Some days back, I read an article in the Tribune in which it was stated that the Publicity officials of Jullundur had gone round the town in their van, warning the public that any person misbehaving with the conductors of the Omnibus Service would be liable to be punished. This was done in face of the generally rude and insulting behaviour of the Omnibus servants towards the public. Time at my disposal is short, otherwise I would have given examples from personal experience. Sir, this is the regard that the Government has for the public. Instead of asking the employees to behave properly with the travelling public, the latter are being warned not to misbehave. This is the prestige which they have in the eyes of their Government. It is being presumed that all the people living in the city are so uncultured as to misbehave with the bus conductors. Is this the sort of opinion that our Government holds about us? Instead of telling the conductors to handle the people tactfully, and how to behave with them, the public are being warned not to misbehave. Even an illiterate shopkeeper knows how to behave with his customers, so that they may be attracted to his shop whenever they want to make any purchases. One axiom of good trade is that the customer is always in the right. If our Government has ventured into the field of business by operating bus services, it should have the



sense to teach its employees the tact that is essential for carrying on business successfully. It is the duty of its officers to realize that the public is not always wrong, as they seem to suppose but that the wrong is often in them or their subordinates.

Increase in work is an excuse which is generally advanced by the officials to justify their shortcomings. We often hear the cry of 'being overworked.' But we often notice that very few of them are punctual in coming to their offices. Again if the interview time for visitors is fixed between 11 A.M. and 12 A.M., it is often seen that the officer himself is seldom in his office at the appointed time. He will either be at home or busy gossiping with his colleagues and friends and basking in the sun. The officers and even clerks have no regard for the time of the visitors. They do not care if the visitors sit outside their rooms for hours on end. If anybody tries to speak to them while they are busy gossiping, they come down on him in such a way that neither he nor others at the place can ever again dare to do such a preposterous a thing as to disturb the officials and even the clerks in their talks.

There is another urgent matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I had sent in a resolution on this subject but owing to pressure of work, it has not been admitted. At the time of the Land Settlement of 1937, a great injustice was done to zamindars of whole of the Amritsar District, inasmuch as their lands were declared "Chahi" instead of "Nehri Chahi" and the the supply of canal water was denied to them. These Zamindars have been protesting against this wrong done to them but it has not so far been righted. They have sent in numerous petitions praying for redress of their grievance but no heed has been paid to them so far. If they are not supplied with canal water for their lands in future, I am sure yield from them would considerably decrease. I was told by a Superintending Engineer (Irrigation) that he had recommended to the Financial Commissioner that this great injustice should be righted. In spite of the fact that a memorandum has also been submitted to the latter, no reply has been received. It appears to me that either the Financial Commissioner or some god in his office is snoring with the papers of this case under his head.

Sir, as the time at my disposal is short, I do not want to give a detailed survey of the conditions as I have seen them prevailing in the province. I will only say something about the plight of peasants and other people living in rural areas. It is a matter for regret, Sir, that the

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Government is doing nothing to ameliorate the condition of the peasants who constitute the backbone of this province. It is they who can lay the foundation for the prosperity of this province. But it is a pity that the Government is not taking any steps to provide them even the ordinary amenities of life. There are very few roads in the rural areas. Most of the villages are unconnected by roads. Medical aid is not at all available to people living in the villages. Before the partition, there used to be one or two Muslim women in every village who could work as midwives. Though they had not received any regular training and had gained their experience only at the cost of several human lives, they were proving useful in the villages, where women could not hope for any other medical aid at the critical time of delivery. During my tour of villages, I have come to know that some Harijan sisters are trying to work as midwives. But it is a matter for great regret Sir, that in some villages, the number of deaths owing to delivery cases becoming septic has risen to seven or eight every month since the going away of Muslim midwives. So I would urge upon the Government the urgent necessity of posting at least one trained midwife in every two or three villages. About the sanitation of villages, the less said the better. Attention is drawn to this urgent problem only when cholera or some other epidemic breaks out. Even then all that is done is to inoculate the people.

Now about education in villages. So far as I think, there is perhaps not a single Government school in villages. There are some private schools and some others run by the District Boards, but even then every village has not a school and children have to walk for several miles every day to get education. Again, while the people in towns, even those whose incomes are low, can afford to give their children higher education, people living in villages have to send their children to towns even for secondary education. They have to spend more on their education in spite of the fact that their incomes are very much less than of the people in cities. They have also to run the risk of their children being spoilt. This is a great handicap for people living in rural areas. While children of people living in towns can easily get high education, the village people cannot and therefore they cannot rise so high as the former.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, it is now a year and a half since we achieved independence but the condition of this unfortunate province, which is the



direct outcome of the partition, is still that of a helpless child. As the time given to me is very short, I shall try to draw the attention of the House to only a few matters which are uppermost in my mind.

The first thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is the prevalence of corruption in our province. In spite of all that has been said or done against it, it continues unabated in every department. I have to say it regretfully that our Government has miserably failed to eradicate it. To my mind, the chief cause of failure lies in the fact that while petty officers are being prosecuted on trifling causes of corruption, high officers who have made lakhs of rupees by accepting bribes or other questionable means, are being and have been allowed to go scot free. It is the lack of courage on the part of our Government to take action against corrupt officers, that accounts for its failure to stamp out this evil from the services. I would like to make this point clear by citing some instances.

Sir, during the last Autumn Session, in the meeting of the Assembly party, I had drawn the attention of the hon. Ministers to an article published in the Hindustan Times. This article was written by an Engineer of the Government of India. It was stated therein that a Department of the Government of India had purchased a Thermal Plant and had paid for it Rs. 4 lakhs more than its original price. I also pointed out to the hon. Ministers that one of our responsible Engineers had without calling tenders purchased a Thermal Plant of the same capacity and had paid for it a price, which was five thousand dollars more than the price paid by the Engineer of Government of India. I suggested to the hon. Ministers that I suspected foul play and that enquiry should be made in the matter. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that though this purchase was made during Chaudhri Lahri Singh's term of office and investigation in the cause was started long ago, it is not yet known what action has been taken. Now I give another such instance. An officer who was at the time of evacuation of Muslims, the Deputy Commissioner of a District, was reported to have devoured lakhs of rupees during the days of disturbances. The hon. Premier had admitted the truth of this allegation against him and he was, therefore, posted at a place where he could not get an opportunity to indulge in corruption. It is now reported that he is again going to be posted as Deputy Commissioner of some district and that the orders are under issue. This makes it clear that while our Government is dealing sternly with subordinate officials with a view to eradicating corruption, it has not the courage to touch high officers.

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I am just reminded of another instance of this kind. Some friends or relatives of a Minister, were prosecuted for lifting some bales of cotton. The case was being tried by a Magistrate. He was asked to stop the trial of those persons but he was not prepared to do so. The result was that he was suspended on false charges of corruption and is now under suspension. Sir, these are hard facts, not the figments of my imagination. Some time back I told an hon. Minister that a Deputy Commissioner and a Superintendent of Police had made lakhs of rupees by malpractices. I asked him if he had heard this matter. He replied that it had not come to his notice. I suggested to the hon. Minister that if they are transferred to some other places and an enquiry is started against them, many persons would come forward to give evidence against them. But no action was taken in the matter.

Now I would like to cite another instance to prove the truth of my contention. The Inspector General of Police and the Chief Secretary wrote to the hon. Premier, that there was a persistent rumour that a certain Minister had made much money by illegitimate methods and that if they are allowed to investigate the matter, they might be able to prove these charges against the Minister. The hon. Premier also gave this thing in writing to a responsible member of the Congress High Command. But I do not know up to this time what has become of his note. I have, however, heard that the note submitted by the Inspector General of Police and the Chief Secretary has been returned to them with thanks.

In view of these facts, Sir, I am totally despaired. I can't think of that happy time when this province will be completely free from the evil of corruption and bribery. For more than eighty years this province was under the rule of the British. Though their administrative system was devised primarily with the object of strengthening their hold on the country, it cannot be denied that it was to some extent free from the evil of favouritism. The discipline in the services during their regime was excellent. The British observed a measure of impartiality in the administration of the country. They never let efficiency suffer. This was the secret of their success. Sir, the morale of services has much deteriorated, as those people have some voices who have some approach to the M.L.As. or the hon. Ministers. The officials are afraid that action may be taken on a false complaint against them and they may suffer some penalty. Supposing any Superintendent of Police does not act according to the wishes of

the Minister, if at any time he is found to have followed a repressive policy in order to maintain law and order in any village, he is liable to be punished. So it is obvious that those people who have no approach to M.L.As or the hon. Ministers cannot run the administration efficiently as they are overwhelmed with fear of higher authorities. In these circumstances the vestige of justice has disappeared and the high officers do not play their full part in running the administration efficiently. An hon. Member remarked that for a pretty long time Master Tara Singh had been indulging in propaganda to create bitterness and wider gulf of misunderstanding between sister communities. In the conference held at Delhi I know that some of the Sikh leaders made speeches in favour of the Government and some against it. But if the matter is judged in its proper perspective I would frankly say that the Hindu national papers which are published from Jullundur and Delhi are more responsible for inflaming communal passions and of provoking conflict with the communities by writing irresponsibly and with impurity than the utterances of Master Tara Singh. In fact, Master Tara Singh has been sincere in his devotion to the cause of Hindu-Sikh unity and made appeal for it in the Delhi Conference address. As a matter of fact those irresponsible leaders of the Sikh community who accompany Master Tara Singh in East Punjab were responsible for creating bitterness and breeding unhealthy communal mentality among the public. Unfortunately, every one of the officers barring a few honourable exceptions is communal at heart. On the 22nd March, 1948, when the election of the leader had to take place, the hon. Premier was warned of the rising tide of communalism in the province. The officers are in fact responsible for spreading the incidence of this disease. The remedy to be applied should be that the Public Service Commission should act as a Vigilance Board to decide such cases. If all the powers to enquire into the allegations of corruption, favouritism nepotism and communalism rest in the Ministers, there might be some interference whether direct or indirect on one or other ground whether reasonable or unreasonable. So it will be apparent that if we want to weed out communalism from the Government Services, we must invest the Public Service Commission with the powers of Vigilance Board and it should act as appellate authority for aggrieved persons. Nothing short of such a step can clean the vicious atmosphere prevailing in the province. If we have a strong will to eradicate corruption from the Government departments, the hon. Premier or the Ministers should exercise no powers to decide cases of corruption. These Ministers try to please and show favours which the administration can bestow and thus make the already corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy more inefficient,

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corrupt and irresponsible to public opinion. The Government should set up a Board which should enquire into the allegations of corruption and decide the cases on their merits. Before the partition of the province I was inclined to think that Muslims' morale was not of high order but after they had succeeded in forming a Muslim state, they had made ceaseless efforts to run their administration efficiently. But unfortunately in India communalism has become an incurable disease and everybody is generally too selfish to gain his own objectives. We cannot shut our eyes to the undeniable truth that the Pakistan Government in its determination to check corruption has dismissed the Ministers who were found guilty of corruption. It has also started enquiries into the allegations of corruption against a number of I.C.S. men. But to me it seems that here the petty officers like patwaris and gurdawars are generally amongst the victims, whereas the highly placed officials go scot free.

Everybody knows that ours is a border province and the inhabitants of the villages which are situated at the border have to face many hardships. The young girls of these zamindars have to move about in their fields for purposes of harvesting the cotton crops. Cases have come to light that the Muslims at the other side of the border sometimes try to kidnap the young girls of these zamindars. Besides this, thousands of acres of land are lying uncultivated as nobody is prepared to settle there and take up the risk owing to its close proximity to the border. So it would be necessary to strengthen the people at the border by giving them arms without licence; otherwise the people on the other side are likely to create panic at the border. We should distribute arms freely and equip the people like the Frontier tribes in the North Western Frontier Province. But our Government does not take up these measures as it is afraid of the Central Government which does not subscribe to this policy.

Sir, I would now like to focus the attention of the hon. Members on the fact that sometime ago an hon. Member made complaint against the hon. Premier to the Prime Minister of India stating that the hon. Premier was not a strong man and was pursuing a policy of wooing the Sikhs. He added that all the important key posts were held by Sikhs in our province which was clear from the fact that the Home Minister and the Inspector General of Police were Sikhs and that there was preponderance of Sikhs in the high ranks of the Police Department. I am not aware of the reply that Prime Minister of India gave, but it is a pity that people do not take a realistic view of the whole situation. The incorrectness of this statement

would be evident from the the fact that His Excellency the Governor, the Premier, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary to the Government and most of the Secretaries in the Civil Secretariat are Hindus. The number of Hindu Deputy Commissioners and of Superintendents of Police in the thirteen districts of the East Punjab is nine each respectively. Practically East Punjab is ruled by Hindu majority Officers. I regret very much that the so called nationalist and Hindu Press of East Punjab always alleges that our Premier is favouring the Sikhs out of the way. But this is the real picture of the province which I am compelled to say on the floor of this House.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)*

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, I had no intention to speak today, but one of my companions has failed to turn up due to some work. He told me once that the Deputy Commissioner of his district did not know his name. I find today, Sir, that the Deputy Speaker of this House of which I am a member, is not aware of my name.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No reflection on the Chair, please.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** I have noticed that most of the hon. Members delivered speeches in order to get publicity in the newspapers. Most of the speakers did not know the difficulties of the villagers. As Chaudhri Samar Singh said, the Government has not done anything to remove these difficulties. For example, there is only one shop for selling kerosene oil to the residents of nine or ten villages. A zamindar has to go to a distance of three or four miles to obtain it. The cause of this state of affairs is that on occupying Treasury Benches, our hon. Friends forget the difficulties of the villagers. This is the harvesting season and every villager is busy with his work. Then, Sir, a villager has to go two or three miles away to get cloth. Generally the cloth dealer says that it is not in stock. You can imagine the loss of valuable time which the zamindars have to suffer in trying to obtain such things.

A villager has not to deal with Ministers or other big officers. Patwaris and Sub-Inspectors of Police concern him most. There are two patwaris in our village, neither of whom has any office. They are present in the village for only three days in a month and for the remaining twenty seven days, they keep away. When this is the case with a village which has a pretty large population, I am unable to imagine how this Government is functioning. Hon. Members professed to speak in the name of the poor



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people but none of them said anything for their betterment. Perhaps they said those things with a view to finding a place in the newspapers.

I suggested that land should be consolidated. The Minister-in-charge rose and said that he agreed with my suggestion but the resettlement of refugees was more urgent. A very important work has therefore been postponed. We used to criticise the foreign rulers for their apathy towards the poor villagers, but I find that while in those days something was at times done, our present Government has done nothing whatsoever.

I made a request in October last that arrangement should be made for the supply of fodder for our cattle, but nothing has been done up till now. If the lives of our cattle are not saved in time, what is the use of taking any decision afterwards? In this connection, I am reminded of a story in which a ruler was informed that a certain place was on fire. He was pleased to order after six months that the fire might be extinguished.

Several kinds of things are discussed in the villages. A motor driver told me that there were only five front seats in a bus in which thirty five inspectors of various departments wished to be seated. How was such a thing possible? Could the Minister of Transport allow seven inspectors to get themselves seated on one seat.

The institution of Sufedposhes having been abolished, the villagers are left to deal with one important functionary, the Lambardar. When any inspector visits a village, he stays with the Lambardar, because there he can get his meals and milk free. When a villager, however, goes to either of these officers in connection with some work, he is told that there is no time to see them.

When I enquired about the progress of Bhakhra Dam Scheme, I was told that the sum of eight million rupees provided in the last budget has not been spent so far. It was also said that some important papers were damaged during the last rainy season. If a Government officer could not keep even his papers safe, what will be the fate of our province? I do not blame the hon. Ministers for these things. Seventy members of this House should be able to get things done according to their desire. It is our weakness that we cannot make the Ministers understand our difficulties. I am not one of those who believe in seeking interviews with the Ministers for impressing these things. Let the Ministers come to us if they wish to see the conditions of villagers.



People in my village sometimes enquire as to what is going to become of the Minister from Rohtak District. I have to tell them that there are two such furzi Ministers but they are Minsters only in name.

Then, Sir, I have noticed that whenever the Congress Committee holds a public meeting in a village, there is disturbance at that place after about two weeks. The President of our District Congress Committee is here and he can hear me out.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir....

**Master Gurbanta Singh** : Are Harijans not allowed to speak in this House?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : Why not?

**Minister for Home and Revenue** : Sir, I have very carefully listened to the criticism which has been levelled by hon. Members of this House during the last three or four days against the Government in general and the Law and Order Department in particular. Before I try to meet the objections that have been raised, I think it is proper that I should give a short picture of the Police Department as we found it immediately after the partition. Considering the population of this new province and the hard and difficult times that we had to face, we required a police strength of about twenty thousand men. But it was not to be so. It is an open secret that the Police Force of the United Punjab was dominated by Muslims, not only in the West Punjab but even in the districts of the East Punjab.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** : What was the total strength of Police in the United Punjab?

**Minister for Home and Revenue** : It was more than forty thousand.

I was submitting that not only in the West Punjab but even in the districts of East Punjab which were mainly populated by Hindus and Sikhs, the Muslim people created such a vicious communal atmosphere that everybody became sick and afraid of them. At the time of partition this very police which should have been responsible for the security of life and property and maintenance of law and order in the province, had jettisoned its sense of duty and had begun to indulge in those horrible and beastly acts which the people at large were perpetrating. In the Thanas the Muslim Sub-Inspectors and constables left their places of duty and took away even rifles with them. So after the partition

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when we required a force of at least twenty thousand men only for our routine work, we got a strength of about seven thousand men as our share. The House can very well imagine the difficulty that the Government had to face. The Government had at its disposal just one third of the force which was necessary for every day work and with this it had to come to grips with an unprecedented cataclysm. The upheaval which we had the misfortune to see after partition spelt disaster to law and order in this province and such a state of affairs has never been witnessed in any part of the world except in cases of declared war. What was more, whatever their number, the sense of duty of our men was definitely questionable. My hon. Friends perhaps remember that in those days if a constable or a police officer was told that it was his duty to protect the person and property of the people, he turned a deaf ear to such advice. Everyone of them had become mad with communal fury and the sense of duty had been thrown overboard. They were all indulging in loot and arson like the people at large and in these circumstances, whatever anybody may say to the contrary, creating order in the province and making good the deficiency in the Police force was not an easy job. It is not possible to bring into being a force like the Police which forms the basis or foundation of all discipline or law and order in the Province, in such a short time. No doubt at the beginning some enthusiastic young men did come forth for recruitment but experience told us that we should have been a little more careful in this matter. So a little later those men who had joined with communal feelings uppermost in their minds after the 15th of August 1947 had to be discharged and their places filled in by those who came with the sole idea of service. Of course, now we are in a position to say that we possess the required strength. But I cannot help repeating that making up a deficiency of fifteen or sixteen thousand men was not a small matter and when I say that we have now got at our command a strength of twenty thousand men, it does not mean that all of them have been properly trained and are in a position to take charge of their duties. A considerable number of about four thousand men which includes constables, head constables and some small officers, that is about 20 per cent of the force, is still receiving training in schools or at various centres and is getting ready to be at the service of the Province. I, therefore, think that to expect cent per cent work from the Police force whose strength now is only eighty per cent of its original strength, is to expect too much. But in spite of this fact, I am glad to say that the Police of our Province, ever since the partition of the country, has worked quite hard and has tried to discharge its duties efficiently. A great

majority of the policemen, if not all of them, have done their duties whole-heartedly not caring for the physical hardships they had to face sometimes. It gives me pleasure to say that about seven policemen laid down their lives while on duty during the last year. Besides, twentyfour or twentyfive of them had to become the targets of bullets during this year. Under these circumstances, I think, it is not fair to say that the police is not doing its duty. To say that, is to do an injustice to the Police Department. I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my appreciation of the work done by the police.

Now, Sir, I would like to place before the House the hardships the police had to face here, after the partition of our Province. To begin with, I draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact which is usually lost sight of, although it is a plain fact. It is that, after the partition, ours has become a border Province. I think the conditions obtaining at the border are best known to my hon. Friends who represent here the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur and Kangra. They know what intricate problems exist there. The work that is entrusted to the police at the border is carried out with the active co-operation of the people and their whole-hearted sympathy. So it is with the joint co-operation of the police and the people that the work of the defence of the border is being successfully carried on. We do not want that the burden of this work should be put upon the military. The military can be better and more usefully employed in work of greater importance. The police has to look after the physical and the economic difficulties of the people and thus to keep up their morale. In case there is a raid by the Pakistanis, the brave people living at the border are always ready to resist them resolutely. Those brave people render active assistance to the armed police and the National Volunteer Corps in their work. This work at the border is not an easy job. There is no hard and fast line of the border and the territories of India and Pakistan freely intermingle. It is difficult to say where the territory of India ends and that of Pakistan begins. Under these circumstances, it is very difficult to maintain law and order without the sympathetic attitude of the people and without keeping up their morale. I think the bravery and courage shown by the people living in the villages situated at the border in assisting the armed police and the national volunteer corps in their work of the maintenance of law and order, are really commendable. I am confident that, with the cooperation of those brave people, we are quite competent to protect the border without putting any burden on the military.

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I do not want to appeal to the feelings of the hon. Members. I am describing what I saw with my own eyes. I do not agree with my hon. Friend who thinks that some of the land situated near the border remains uncultivated. I have myself gone to the farthest places on the border and I have found that the people who are away from it are more apprehensive than those brave ones who actually live there. They are steadfast like rocks of iron and are willing to lay down their lives for the defence of India. They are carrying on their work as usual without any fear from across the border. The people who work in the offices or who get pleasure from the speeches delivered here or elsewhere cannot imagine how brave and courageous the people at the border are. It was a few months back that I, along with our Defence Minister, visited the military and police pickets at the border for two days. I was glad to find that the joint defence arrangements of our Military, the Police, the National Volunteer Corps and above all, our brave people living in the villages situated near the border, were excellent. While we were going along the border in jeeps, we were delighted to find at a place about forty or fifty yards from the border, a number of young boys who were grazing cattle and were bathing joyfully in the canal. We forgot our own fatigue and everything when we saw that happy group of boys plunging and jumping in the canal. We stopped there and inquired of the boys if they had any difficulties. They laughed and told us that it was the people living in the cities who had any fears and those fears and difficulties existed only in the newspapers. They were prepared to shed their blood for every particle of our motherland. This gave us heart. Those brave people living in the border villages are doing a real service to the country. I have my limitations in describing here in detail all the work the Government has so far done at the border. But I can say with full confidence that the defence arrangements of our Government at the border are quite complete and adequate and this fact has been amply proved by the events of the last few months. When the situation in Hyderabad became unbearable, it became necessary to send an army of liberation for the purpose of removing the sufferings of the civil population 5 P. M. there. Here in East Punjab fears were entertained by the people of the Province. We made all possible arrangements to strengthen our border. I cannot reveal the nature of these arrangements but I can assure the House that they were foolproof. In Pakistan public demonstrations were held demanding positive steps in aid of Hyderabad by opening a second front. But our defences were so strong that Pakistan could not dare attack us from this side. I can say with confidence that we are

strong enough to meet any challenge to our existence from outside the borders.

At present our energies should be directed towards the progress of our people. But if we want to make any economic or political progress, it is necessary that the forces of destruction and terrorism which are out to destroy law and order by creating chaos should be checked. We are now an independent people governed by a democratic system of Government. Our methods should be national and aboveboard and not sentimental or secretive. Resort to methods of violence and threats of satyagraha against a democratic national Government are unpatriotic and harmful acts. We have to create such an atmosphere that schemes for the uplift of the country in economic and political fields should be put forth and pursued with all available energy. Any criticism that may come should be constructive and helpful. But one thing should not be lost sight of. All schemes that aim at removing illiteracy and ignorance of the people and at improving their standard of living will remain mere dreams if the Government of the day is faced with such forces and interests that are bent upon placing obstacles in its way and giving it no time for thought and constructive efforts. I don't wish to go into details. What I wish to tell you is that the twin problems of evacuation and rehabilitation have a direct bearing upon law and order and where there is no law and order, the various beneficent activities come to a standstill. You have seen that when law and order breaks down nothing progressive can be attempted. All resources are locked up. The atmosphere becomes so tense that no useful activity is possible. On the other hand, in a peaceful atmosphere the resources of a Government are released and the energy of the people is diverted from destructive into constructive channels. The economic and political conditions improve and the prestige of the nation rises in international sphere. Recently we had to face great problems such as the evacuation of refugees at a time when there was neither rail traffic nor any other communication.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** How long will you harp on the tune of refugees?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We will continue to harp on this day and night until all refugees are settled.

**Premier :** They will be settled in spite of Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, here I will not discuss the refugee rehabilitation problem in detail. It will be discussed when the



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relevant Demand comes before the House. But I wish to say something about it in so far as it touches the question of law and order. The situation is not yet completely under control. A large part of the population has been in a floating condition and matters will not come to normal until the scheme of permanent allotment is fully put into operation. There are some disruptive elements which place obstacles in our way and whose sole aim is to exploit the situation and create disorder and dissatisfaction. They try to exploit the food problem also. But we know that the food problem upon whose solution depends the peace and prosperity of the country, must be solved and any slackness on our part will spell disaster. It is simply because of this fact that the Government had to adopt some unpleasant measures which they would have hesitated to adopt in normal times. No measure of repression of any Government is ever pleasant to the public. The Government is different from its people as we all belong to the same country, are members of the same society, breathe the same air and live under the same sun. In view of these facts, Government does not feel delighted to adopt some repressive measures whether punitive or preventive with a view to checking any unhealthy element. If Government hesitates or feels reluctant to repress any dangerous element which aims at its destruction and if the Government, in order to win cheap popular support, does not adopt strict and expressive measures to wipe out such unhealthy elements, then I feel that the Government has failed to perform its rightful duty. On the other hand, it is the bounden duty of the Government to create such conditions where the law of the land will have full freedom, and to develop an atmosphere of law and order, where the people will be able to live in peace and tranquillity. (*Cheers*).

In the last few months the Central Government and our Provincial Government received a challenge from some quarter with a view to over-awe us. Unfortunately it came at such a time when we were hardly free from the border threats and the Hyderabad episode. Some unreasonable people, in order to make capital out of the difficulty which the Government was confronted with, thought it opportune to raise their heads and thus to harass the Government by their nefarious activities. Perhaps they were under the impression that they had yet a foreign Government in the country which they wanted to overthrow. They created many difficulties for the Government and resorted to Satyagrah, non-violence and civil disobedience which are effective weapons to be used against a foreign Government. These methods are not employed



against a democratic form of Government. It really ill-behaves then to rise against their own Government which represents them. A responsible Government can exist only up to a time till it enjoys the confidence of the people who have brought it into existence on the strength of their votes. There are constitutional methods through which a responsible Government can be overthrown. Here I wish to lay emphasis on the point that the weapons of civil disobedience which were employed against a foreign Government can in no way be employed against a democratic Government. In fact these methods are against the very traditions of democracy. This new-born freedom which we have won after a century of sufferings and sacrifices ought to have been nurtured in her initial stages. But on the other hand the forces of R. S. S., communism, worst still communalism and men like Master Tara Singh, started to work against the law of the land which would have created chaos and confusion in the country. But the Government whether Central or Provincial rose to the occasion and did all that was possible to control the situation for the sake of maintaining law and order. (*Hear, hear*).

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** The credit for all this goes to the Central Government only.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The Provincial Government has also a right to share the responsibility and the credit of the Central Government in such matters, and I feel that my hon. friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has no claim over it. Sir, I really feel grieved to hear such criticism. In a free and secular state like ours, where every effort is being made to consolidate the country as a single and strong unit, it appears extremely unpatriotic to talk in terms of centre and province. Communalism is a national plague but the worst national evil is provincialism. As such it is a great injustice to the Dominion Government if we discriminate between the Provincial and Central activities. Those who indulge in such talks seem to miss the right comprehension of national good.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** So you are still minors.

*(At this stage, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair).*

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We may be minors or not but we are not women. I wish to point out that some problems of national interest which involve an all India Policy, are to be tackled both by the Centre and the Provinces alike. The Provinces are not different from the Centre. As such the responsibility does not lie only on the

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Centre but it lies on the Provinces as well. This can safely be compared to a family where the different provinces form the members of the single unit having the same interests. It is with the complete co-operation and with the following of one uniform policy that any scheme for national good can prove a success. If the movement of R. S. S. and that of the communism had not been tacked in complete co-ordination, and co-operation, the country would have been plunged into chaos and lawlessness. The criticism whether or not we are minors does not serve any useful purpose. We are in fact a baby-Government as our freedom was won only a year and a half back, on the 15th of August, 1947. We are thankful to our mothers who made minors like us, expert and perfect in shaping the future of our Country.

**Mr. Speaker :** We are a baby.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Yes, still a baby. It will not be out of place to mention here that where it is our duty to help the country in its advancement, it is all the more necessary on the part of women to be forward in this national duty. Here I am reminded of the speech made by the hon. Sardar Patel when he repeated in every nook and corner of our country that Government is young like a child and we should nurse it with great care and caution. It is in the fitness of things that in order to strengthen it, we should create an atmosphere which will expedite its growth and this, I am sure, will be instrumental in making it firm rooted and will thus command respect and reverence of the world. Our country is destined to be very great and prosperous. Here I am reminded of an instance. The Mission of the International Monetary Bank which visited the country have carried a very good impression about us. One of the members of this Mission, who happened to be an American, was accompanying me in my car. He saw a brick-kiln at a far-off place. After a few minutes, his eyes fell on one more kiln but he did not remark anything. He was surprised to see a third kiln on the chimney of which the labourers were at work. It was drizzling and the labourers were cleaning the chimney and making necessary repairs. On seeing all this he asked me as to what these labourers were doing. I told him that they were manufacturing bricks and that these kilns were meant for this purpose. He also asked me as to what would happen to the bricks in the kiln in the case of a snow-fall and how these bricks were manufactured in the kilns. He then told me that if I were to visit America. I would not be able to locate brick kilns because in America, all the processes in brick manufacturing from the digging of soil to the loading of bricks, were carried out by tractors and electric machines. He also told me that crores of bricks were being manufactured in America

every day by mechanized methods, and that they were not employing much labour for running this industry. Therefore, Sir, if from industrial point of view, this country is regarded as a child, it would not be improper. I would even go further and say that in fact our country has yet to step into the domain of industrialization. Every one has patriotic feelings and who does not love one's own country ? But I submit, Sir, that if we begin to think that since our ancestors were great and since we have a glorious heritage from the hoary past, therefore we are even to-day a great people, we would be living in a fool's paradise. It is no use shutting one's eyes to the realities. We have to see where we stand in comparison with the rest of the world. We have to admit our shortcomings and weaknesses. We know the spheres in which we are backward and in which we have to advance with a view to occupying an honourable position in the world. We can progress only if we are fully aware of our weaknesses and are under no illusions.

During the last few months, our machinery for the maintenance of law and order was subjected to shocks from various quarters but I am happy to be able to say that it withstood these shocks firmly and successfully. We should not grudge the services due appreciation for executing the policies of the Government on such occasions, faithfully and steadfastly. We dealt firmly with the movement of the R.S.S., with the help of services who were supposed to be hesitant in dealing with R. S. S. I have, however, Sir, to point out with regret the attitude of some hon. Members of this House and also other people, who sympathized with the patwaris' strike and encouraged them in one way or the other. This attitude on their part put us in a very embarrassing position. I wonder, Sir, at a time when the most urgent work in connection with the rehabilitation of refugees was on hand, how it entered the heads of patwaris to strike work. They perhaps thought that the difficulties of the Government were their opportunities. Their services were imperatively needed, as copies of revenue records had to be prepared and exchanged with the West Punjab Government. But at the instigation of some people, they decided right at that time to strike work. I see no other reason for the patwaris deciding to strike work particularly in those two months i.e., October and November, when they were required to do 'girdawari' and prepare copies of revenue records, except that they thought it the best opportunity to get their demands conceded by putting undue pressure on the Government. Well, Sir, if revenue records had not been exchanged with the Pakistan Government at the proper time, the task of rehabilitation would have been delayed by another year. I am definitely of the opinion, Sir, that it was not proper for any one, least of all the hon. Members of this House, to have sympathized with such people. Sympathizing with such element

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is to misplace one's sympathy and I think all of us should be above this weakness. Sir, if our soldiers fighting in Kashmir were to strike work in the same spirit in which the patwaris did and were to tell the Government of India that if their salary was not increased from Rs. 100/-/- P. M. to Rs. 500/-/- P. M., they would march back to Delhi, would it be possible to hold our positions on the battle-front and win the war? I feel, Sir, that it is the duty of every public servant to serve the Government faithfully be he a soldier, patwari, policeman, stenographer or reporter. No public servant has any right to strike work with a view to getting his demands conceded, by putting undue pressure on the Government or by embarrassing it. To sympathize with such people in any manner, would be tantamount to attempting to sap the growing strength of the country, and to the holding up of its progress. I feel, Sir, the country can expect nothing good from such people who stand in the way of its progress. Sir, we are Ministers of a Government responsible to the people and can, therefore, be relied upon to give due consideration to the legitimate demands of the employees. As my hon. friend Sardar Bachan Singh has stated, it was perhaps realization of this fact, that dissuaded the Police constables from launching on a strike, and kept them firm and steadfast in their loyalty, in spite of incitement and instigation from various quarters. The Government itself realized that their salary was inadequate and, therefore, decided to enhance it before any such demand was made. The result was that they were satisfied.

Sir, the problem of wages and prices is a very difficult and complicated problem. Their mutual adjustment presents numerous difficulties. If wages are increased, prices also begin to rise, making for increased inflation, and thus a vicious circle is formed. It is not possible to break it without altering the whole wage structure after taking a comprehensive view of the whole problem. Tinkering here and there or touching the problem of wages at one or two places, can prove of no avail. The communists knew that pre-occupied as the Government was with so many other problems, it would not be possible for it to attempt a radical change in the whole structure of wages, and so they instigated some unions of railwaymen to hold out the threat of strike. I am glad, Sir, that we have been saved from the disastrous effects of such a strike. I am in a position to say, Sir, that it is the professed policy of not only the Central Government but of all the Provincial Governments to ensure that every workman gets due wages for his work. (*Cheers*). But the crux of the problem is that the Government has not funds and resources enough to give a wage to its employees which it thinks to be their due. I do not want to enter into the domain of finance. The subject of wage structure and finance is a very complicated one and this is no occasion to discuss it.



The dissatisfaction is mainly on sentimental grounds and to exploit the public on these frivolous grounds is nothing short of treachery to the country. I do not like to depict a dismal picture before you of the state of law and order in the border districts. I feel happy to say that we have succeeded in putting down all unlawful activities at the borders with a strong hand. The dust of turmoil is settling down and the turbid waters are getting clearer. Keeping in view the present situation I do not think that such conditions will arise which may become normally beyond the domain of law and order. But apart from this we have to take into consideration other dangers which lie ahead. The Kashmir problem has not been solved to our entire satisfaction. Ours is a border province and there is a mass of evidence to indicate that in our country and outside it there is such an element which by its virulent propaganda and incitement to violence tries to create chaotic state in the country to gain its objectives whatever they might be. Keeping in view the methods of organised and unorganised terrorism practised against the general community which India has witnessed recently, I would like to warn the House that we should take such precautionary measures as we deem necessary in order to give security to the people and to prevent the normal life of the people from being interfered with by such methods of violence. So far as the problem of Relief and Rehabilitation is concerned, we can overcome it easily. But we can ill afford to relax our efforts in the domain of law and order. Some of my honourable Friends may ask why, in face of a considerable improvement in the administration of law and order, additional powers are asked for by the Government. But to them I would say that these are necessary. The economic problem in the country has become very acute and there is a general discontent amongst the public over the rehabilitation problem of the refugees. The disparity in wages also continues to spread discontent amongst the masses. We have every sympathy with the people faced with economic difficulties, but we shall be failing in our duty if we do not take necessary precautions to maintain law and order in the province. I realise that this course of action will not have public recognition and will not be easier to defend but when the country is faced with economic and political difficulties, the Government has to undertake sometimes unpleasant tasks and cannot abdicate its primary functions of maintaining peace at all costs. An honourable Member of the House has drawn my attention towards giving of licences to people living in the border districts for keeping arms. I fully remember my promise held out in the Session held in October 1947 for giving arms to these people. I had said that in an independent country, keeping of arms was the emblem of freedom. We have been pursuing in the past

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a very liberal policy in the matter of issuing licences for arms. But in the changed circumstances, I feel no hesitation in saying that the time has come when we shall have to revise our policy. Information is available with the Government to the effect that by its policy of giving arms liberally to the people the arms have gone into the hands of such persons who do not make legitimate use of it. After deliberation we have decided to exercise more vigilance in the matter and to collect the arms from such persons as the retention of these arms by them may prove prejudicial to the peace and tranquillity of the province. It is no doubt true that to equip the people with arms is to strengthen them but collecting of arms from undesirable hands is also a step in the right direction. Keeping in view the gravity of the situation in the country, it is considered feasible to withdraw our attention from the borders for the present and concentrate our attention to the maintenance of security of the interior of the country.

My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has voiced his grievance in the matter of supply of electricity. He has remarked that instead of giving electricity to the West Punjab, it should have been given first to this province. I do not mean to belittle his criticism but would say that the supply of electricity is a technical process, and is not so easy a job as my hon. Friend imagines. We are prepared to supply energy of 6,000 K. W. to the village of Sardar Bachan Singh. But the difficulty is that it requires special kind of apparatus. After investigation we have come to know that the transformer will be available after two years of the placing of the order.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I would suggest to the hon. Minister that it is available in Bombay and can be got from there.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** It was the primary concern of the Government to feed the hungry and so the Government has been giving top priority to the food problem. I would inform the hon. Member that even if the transformer is available it can only supply 500 or 600 K.W. of electricity. Besides this, there is much confusion in the Electricity Department and efforts are being made to set the Department in order. As regards the Bhakra Dam Project, I may say that according to the old scheme, most of the land falling in the area of West Punjab had to be irrigated.

**An hon. Member :** It means that you were keen to provide water to those areas.



**Minister for Home and Revenue :** To suggest that I am trying to provide water to those areas is the meanest injustice to me.

**Mr. Speaker :** The word "meanest" is too strong.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I withdraw that expression unreservedly but I cannot help remarking that in this particular case the hon. Member has not proved himself to be so sensitive.

I was submitting, Sir, that the Unionist Government, which I have always regarded as an unholy alliance between the Muslims and the Britishers, had so arranged that electricity produced in Mandi, which is in the East Punjab, should be supplied to places in the West Punjab where Muslim population was preponderant. It was our desire to supply the maximum possible amount of electricity to Ludhiana to which place my hon. Friend belongs, but the transmitting wires which we have got, are not capable of carrying even one Killo-watt more. Till these wires are strengthened and new transmitters are installed, we cannot bring more electricity into our use. In these circumstances there were only two alternatives. Either we could have cut off the supply to the West Punjab without being able to make any use of it, or we could continue the supply to our neighbouring Government.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** What have you been doing during one and three-quarter years ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** No arrangement could be made for obtaining a transmitter during this period. We are making suitable arrangements for supplying this electricity to the East Punjab. I hope that in one year we will be able to make sufficient arrangements to make the maximum use of this source of electricity.

Then, Sir, some criticism has been made regarding the Irrigation Department but as the Demand under that head is going to be placed before the House, I will not say anything about it at the present stage.

In the end, Sir, I wish to thank my Friends for the suggestions made by them. Destructive criticism can be ignored, but due consideration will be given to the constructive suggestions.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** During the course of the hon. Home Minister's speech, when I remarked that the Government was still a minor, he stated that they might be minors but they were not females. I submit, Sir, that either he should have sufficient reason for using these words, or he should withdraw them.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** He is not chivalrous enough.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I honestly feel that I did not say anything which was objectionable.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** But he is a spoilt child, Sir.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I am older than the hon. member.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** He should withdraw the words that they might be minors but they were not females.

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*). I thank my hon. Friends who took part in the discussion of the Demand under 'General Administration'.

When my hon. colleague was referring to the word 'minor' used for our Government, he said certain things with which I agree but it would have been better, if he had not said that we were females because the word 'she' is also used for the Government. Though our Government is a minor, I take pride in saying that in spite of our being so, we have tried to do our work very well. Some Friends have suggested that we have not done well, but I am sure that if an impartial person were to judge our work, he would give his verdict in our favour. If a person of major age did something, it would not be so commendable as it would be if a minor did the same. If age is to be taken into consideration, I think that I am older than all the hon. Members, except perhaps one or two of them. I am not, however, one of those who believe that wisdom is commensurate with age. It has been said that our Government and Legislature are minors. When I feel that in spite of our being so described, we have done our work satisfactorily, I take pride in our achievement. I could not understand the object of describing the Government as a minor. Our Central Government also came into existence after the attainment of independence. It is of the same age as we are. The manner in which the Central Government has administered the country and has raised its prestige in the estimation of the world is highly commendable. If they have done such commendable work in a short period, I do not object to our being called minors, because we are of the same age as the Central Government.

Sir, my colleague, the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue, has told the House a good deal about the Police Department and I shall add a little more to what he has said. After the partition we had only three police training centres i. e. Phillaur, Jullundur and Amritsar. At Phillaur arrangement only existed for the training of officers whereas at Jullunder and Amritsar training was given to foot-constables. The centres at

Jullundur and Amritsar could look to the needs of about eight hundred men but we had to train thousands of them and therefore had to open seven more centres for this purpose. So now we have nine centres for training constables. But in spite of this we yet have with us about four thousand untrained recruits. So far as Phillaur is concerned I may say that the like of training which is imparted at this place is not being given perhaps at any place in the whole of India. The work of the Finger Print Bureau and Laboratory is the envy of the whole of the country and for training in this work other Provinces look to us for help. Even at this time we are training many candidates from other Provinces and States. In addition to this we have wireless transmitter sets installed at every District Headquarter Station and the wireless telephones are connected with other big towns in India. For the training of wireless operators arrangements exist at Jutog. Sir, I have placed these facts before the House only to illustrate the arrangements we have made for the training of the Police Force without which no Government can aim at a high standard of efficiency in administration.

A lot has been said about the transformers and supply of electricity. I wish to inform the House that ever since the arbitral council has decided that 13,000 K. W. of Mandi energy that was being supplied to Pakistan should be available for diversion to East Punjab we are doing our level best to strengthen our transmitting lines so that we may be in a position to utilize that energy for our industrial purposes. Whatever material was available in India for our use has been utilized and this energy is being supplied to places outside Jullundur Electric Supply Area. So far as Jullundur proper is concerned, this area is covered by the Electric Supply Company. This Company has been asked to take more energy and arrange for giving as many more connections as possible. We hope that by the end of March or say the beginning of April more electricity would be made available by this company for many industrial concerns. We have loaned our transformers to them. In addition to transformers transmission lines are wanted for Ludhiana and orders for this material have been placed.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** This is sheer repetition.

**Premier :** I seek your protection, Sir. The hon. Member is unnecessarily interrupting me. There is no repetition in what I say. I am giving further information.

Sir, the transmission lines will not only be improved in Ludhiana but energy will be carried even to Khanna and by 1952 when the Nangal

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Project is complete the energy from this place will be connected with that of Jullundur. By this way we shall get the maximum benefit.

As for Ferozepore, hon. Members are aware that energy is supplied there from Mandi through Lahore. Ferozepore will not be able to receive this energy if we cut off supply to Pakistan or Pakistan out of mischief at any time disconnects that energy. For these reasons we have installed thermal plants at this place and whenever a contingency arises we shall have recourse to them. Besides this, Sir, as I remarked the other day, we have made a scheme according to which if and when the term of contract of an Electric Supply Company for a particular town expires, the contract will not be renewed but the concern will be taken over by Government. We have advanced them loans and new plants are being added. Necessary orders have already been placed for these plants and nobody should entertain any fear that we are apathetic and are not acting with promptitude in this matter.

Sir, the biggest charge that has been directed against this Government is that of corruption in services. In this connection my hon. Friends are aware that a committee was appointed consisting of the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Police as members and myself as Chairman at present. It will be recalled that formerly this work had been entrusted to my colleague the hon. Sardar Partap Singh. Now some of my friends object to the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General being members of the Anti-Corruption Committee. They appear to think that this work could have been done in a much better way by non-officials. I differ from them. I am prepared to say that my hon. Friends think so because they don't have any administrative experience. The Chief Secretary who, in addition to his being the head of all Civil Departments, is also a Secretary of all General Administration Departments and the Inspector General who is the head of Police Department which makes necessary enquiries, prove very useful members of such a Committee. I have appointed these officials as members of this Committee not because I have no time for this work. I have done so simply because of their utility and I dare say that they cannot be replaced by non-officials. I may assure the House that the appointment of these officials does in no way derogate from the importance of the Provincial Committee. Of course, so far as work in the districts is concerned, Superintendents of Police and the Deputy Commissioners have instructions to inquire into various cases with the help of non-officials and they are doing so accordingly. The result of their labours is as follows:-

"In Rohtak district 12 cases were detected and two officials were sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000/- each. Eight non-officials were also caught red-handed offering bribes to public servants and two of these were sentenced to four months and six months rigorous imprisonment respectively. In the Ambala district the special staff detected fourteen cases of corruption twelve of whom are being tried in courts of law. These include five police subordinates, six clerks and one overseer. In the Hissar district 22 public servants who were alleged to have accepted illegal gratification were arrested by the anti-corruption staff. In addition 27 non-officials who offered bribes were arrested and five of these have already been convicted. In Simla district two cases against public servants are being tried in courts of law. Two non-officials are also standing their trial in courts one for filing a false complaint and the other for offering a bribe."

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** How many Gazetted Officers are involved in 6 p. m. such cases of corruption ?

**Premier :** I can reply to this question if notice is given.

Besides the appointment of the Anti-Corruption Committee the Government has also appointed Anti-Smuggling Staff. This staff has been selected from the Police Department and we have no reason to doubt their honesty of purpose.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** On a point of information, Sir. Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state if any member of this House is also involved in any case of corruption ?

**Premier :** I have not been able to follow the question of my hon. Friend. Does he want to know whether any member of this House serves on the Anti-Corruption Committee or whether any of them is involved in any case of corruption ? I will, however, be able to reply to his question after making enquiries, if notice is given. The members of the Special Enquiry Committee are required to take the following oath.

#### OATH

"I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby solemnly swear/affirm that I shall

- (1) perform my duties honestly, diligently, and to the best of my ability;
- (2) fully appreciate the nature of the work that has been entrusted to me as member of the Special Inquiry Agency and I shall, in the discharge of my duties, be guided solely by a high sense of justice, morality and fair play;
- (3) I shall not be amenable to any outside influences while acting in the discharge of my duties and shall carry out the responsibilities of my office without any fear or favour;
- (4) I shall not be actuated by any considerations of caste, creed or community in the discharge of my duties;
- (5) may God inspire me to do my duty in the above manner and thus truly serve my mother-land."



[Premier]

The cases of corruption are given to this Enquiry Committee for making enquiries. I admit that the process of enquiry is a lengthy one and it takes some time to complete the inquiry. But keeping in view the way in which the reports are received, the delay in enquiry is inevitable. We cannot proceed with the work of enquiry unless specific allegations against any person are made in the reports. In such cases, we have to approach the persons who send us the reports and we ask them to substantiate them. This entails delay. We have so far received 1500 reports against 650 officers; out of these reports, 110 are anonymous. Now in the case of these anonymous reports, the Government cannot lay hold on any person to prove the charges. The Government, therefore, issued an appeal that whosoever sends any report against any official should also mention his own name, so that the Government might get his help in proving the charges. In the case of anonymous reports also, the Government makes enquiries to satisfy itself, and this is the cause of the delay. A large number of the reports are false and baseless. Out of the total number of reports received by us, 320 were false. In some of these cases, the persons who sent the reports, were quite responsible and when they were approached for enquiry, they gave us in writing that they had personal enmity with the officer concerned and they had then made it up with him. I would like to read out a report of the Anti-Corruption Committee in this connection for the information of the House.

"Instances have come to the notice of the Anti-Corruption Committee, where public workers and some responsible non-officials have not displayed a very helpful attitude in the eradication of the evil. In several cases they filed or endorsed false complaints against Government servants without taking the trouble of verifying them. In one instance a responsible non-official was himself a party to a case of bribe-giving and while the official has been dismissed no action could be taken against the non-official by Government. In two cases a responsible gentleman endorsed complaints containing false allegations without verifying the facts himself. In another case, another responsible person submitted an application recommending the withdrawal of a criminal case against a public servant. In yet another case in which the local officials had investigated the allegations of corruption against a Tehsildar, a responsible gentleman interested himself and tried to use his influence to see that the inquiry was hushed up."

We are being asked as to what action we take against the persons who send us false reports. We can do only this much in this connection that we inform the organisation to which such persons belong. It is left to that organisation to take any action against such persons. Although it has been said by the Government that the persons who send false reports would be prosecuted, yet we have to consult our colleagues with whom we have to work. It is after such consultation



that the person concerned is prosecuted. We are anxious to carry on the administration in the way which should be befitting of a popular Government. I admit that we have not been completely successful in eradicating this evil of corruption from the services. But this much I can say that whenever we receive any complaint against any Government servant, we make enquiry into his conduct and necessary action is also taken against him. As regards the non-official persons who promote corruption, the least that I can say is that they are a slur on the Government. They disgrace not only themselves, but also the organisation to which they belong and also us. They are acting as a stumbling block in the way of the advancement of the nation. To say in sweeping terms that the Government is not honest and the services are corrupt, is far from truth. After all, so much work has been done and these people have done it. All of them are not corrupt. The officials who have worked in the Anti-Corruption cases have done so, not caring for fear or favour and, I think, they have done a true service to the Province.

Again it has been stated that the Government has spent too much on the Civil Supplies Department. I admit that the expenditure incurred on this Department is a little more than before. But the House should realise the fact that the work done by this Department is much more than before. Fair price shops have been opened at various places. There is rationing in twenty towns and cities. We have been making quick arrangements for the supplies of foodgrains to those rural areas also from where any information about shortage is received. This never happened before. For the distribution of cloth, depots have been opened. Government is ever favourably disposed towards starting co-operative consumers' societies wherever it is possible to do so. But it cannot allow the interested elements to exploit the societies for their personal profits. As far as the general good of the people is concerned, it is always prepared to consider any scheme of co-operative societies emanating from any source whatsoever. If the traders also wish to start societies on co-operative basis the Government would gladly consider the matter. (*An hon. Member* : Such societies should be opened in all villages.) This matter has been discussed with high officials. If such societies are organised, the work of distribution can be entrusted to them. These co-operative societies can manage distribution of cloth in a fair manner and I hope they will do so.

An objection has been raised that the milling charges are very high. I give below the milling charges at various rationed places. The hon. Members can see for themselves whether they are high or low.

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<i>Places</i>	<i>Milling charges</i>
Rohtak	0 11 0
Karnal	0 10 0
Panipat	0 11 0
Ambala and Ambala Cantt.	0 11 0
Jagadhari	0 12 0
Simla	0 10 0
Dharmasala	0 12 0
Hoshiarpur	0 10 6
Jullundur and Jullundur Cantt.	0 11 0
Ludhiana	0 12 0
Ferozepore and Ferozepore Cantt.	0 11 0
Amritsar	0 11 0
Gurdaspur	0 11 0
Batala and Pathankot	0 10 0

If the godown rent and interest, and transport charges are included in the milling charges the figures are :-

<i>Places</i>	<i>Charges</i>
Rohtak	0 12 3
Karnal	0 12 6
Panipat	0 13 6
Ambala and Ambala Cantt.	0 12 6
Jagadhari	0 13 3
Simla	0 13 6
Dharmasala	0 14 6
Hoshiarpur	0 12 6
Jullundur and Jullundur Cantt.	0 13 0
Ludhiana	0 12 6
Ferozepore and Ferozepore Cantt.	0 13 3
Amritsar	0 12 9
Gurdaspur	0 12 6
Batala, and Pathankot	0 11 9

These are the milling and other incidental charges in rationed towns. Moreover one can get corn or gram if he likes and get it milled whenever he thinks proper. It is not necessary for him to get flour. Sir, the anti-smuggling staff employed for the purpose of watching the movements of foodgrains has intercepted goods worth Rs. 4,75,000.

When I was at Delhi I was asked why foodgrains were not allowed to flow freely into Delhi where the rates were higher. I had a talk with the hon. Food Minister on this point. As a matter of fact we are prepared to give foodgrains to the people of Delhi but the transaction must be at Government level. We cannot allow the trader to reap undue advantage out of the situation. If the Government of India wants foodgrains for

Delhi we are prepared to consider the demand. In fact, we have already sent about twenty eight lakhs of maunds of gram to other provinces. Civil Supplies Department has many a hardship to face. Because of various restrictions on trade which it has to impose for the benefit of the consumers, the traders are always displeased with this department. But we are prepared to consider all reasonable proposals and fair demands of the traders. Our sole aim is to see that distribution is always fair and just and to that end we are always willing to take steps that are suggested to us.

Sir, an objection has been raised with regard to the amount of Rupees sixtyeight thousand that is being spent on foreigners in connection with B. C. G. vaccine. The fact is that we are not spending this amount for nothing. Our desire is to get a team of our doctors trained at the hands of these foreigners. Whenever they get trained they will take up the work in their own hands. I need not go here into the question of the utility of the B. C. G. injections. It is a scientific issue. I must accept the opinions of the experts on this point. When the Government of India received B. C. G. vaccine and asked us whether we would like to avail of it, we were advised by our experts to agree to the proposal. The Government of India was saying that they would like these experts to work in East Punjab. They have begun work at Amritsar. These 68000/- are for training our people and not to be given to foreigners.

In connection with the question of salaries, a reference has been made to my speech delivered in 1937 as Opposition Leader in the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Sardar Sajjan Singh is a true Congressman. He was a Parliamentary Secretary. Why did he not object to the then Ministers drawing a higher salary? The Ministers are always criticized. Sir, at that time I had proposed that members should draw less allowance, and members who got Rs. 22/8/- per day of attendance, should pay Rs. 12/8/- a day to the party and party needed it for Assembly work. Why are members and he drawing Rs. 300/- p. m. and he does not raise his voice against it? But in spite of all this we also voted in this House in favour of allowing the Members of the Cabinet to draw a salary of Rs. 1500/- per month as was agreed upon by the All India Congress Committee. An Act to this effect was passed in November 1947. But we of our own choice drew our pay at the reduced rate from the date of our taking over charge.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Sir, if the hon. Premier gives way, through you, I would like to remind him that the Congress Members in the United Punjab Cabinet requested the then Premier to reduce their salaries, but

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he was adamant and refused to do so. May I, in the light of this fact, know from the hon. Premier why it was not felt necessary now to effect a reasonable reduction in the salaries of the Ministers after achieving freedom, and at a time when they were in a position to do so?

**Premier :** Let me make this point clear to the hon. Member that such an objection ought to have been raised at the time when a Bill pertaining to this subject was under discussion in this House. I am of the opinion that objections of this nature are very cheap and are usually raised by Members of the Opposition. It will not be out of place to mention here that the Opposition could make efforts to effect reduction in the salary of a Minister through a substantive Motion.

**Thakar Pancham Chand :** May I know from the hon. Premier whether he has thought over the question of delegating certain powers to the Parliamentary Secretaries?

**Premier :** I regret I can't answer this question at present as the time at my disposal is very short and I have got to reply to some more important points. However I shall talk about it with the hon. Member at some other opportune time.

While referring to corruption, it has been said by one of my learned Friends that a note was written by the Inspector General of Police and the Chief Secretary to me and that I returned it without taking any action in the matter. Here I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and my learned Friend in particular that by making such speeches they can neither make any improvement in the Budget nor can they make any constructive suggestions with a view to bettering the administration, especially if they are misled by bazaar gossips and take them to be true. It really ill-behoves them to indulge in such practices with a view to bringing discredit and disrepute to our activities.

It has also been said that an electric machine was purchased at a comparatively higher price at Delhi. In this connection I wish to point out that I went through the concerned file and found that the engineers were not at fault. If they were at fault, I would have taken a severe action against them.

Now about the maintenance of law and order in the Province. After the detention of Master Tara Singh demonstrations were held on 2nd of March, 1949. I am placing these facts before the House simply to show how propaganda is carried on against us. Some lay

the blame for this on Hindus, and still some others do not hesitate to apportion the blame on me and they even go to the extent of calling me as "Gopi Singh". Publicity has been given to a baseless fact that the East Punjab Police opened fire in Durbar Sahib on 2nd of March and the Government stopped people from going there and thus debarred them from the holy "Darshan" and "Prashad". I wish to assure my hon. Friends that I have greatest respect for holy Durbar Sahib as any other devout disciple has. The Gurus and their teachings are so good that every one looks at them with a profound sense of respect. How on earth can one imagine that anybody would dare to disrespect them and the most holy place of their worship? As soon as we received the information we issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, to see that no disturbances of any kind take place in the holy place. I realized that any untoward happening would prove disastrous for our province. We made all possible arrangements to quell down any kind of disturbance with the least amount of interference. Government was obliged to make use of tear-gas to maintain perfect peace and order. We were successful in avoiding any clash whatsoever in Durbar Sahib, as we thought it disgraceful and disrespectful to allow any such unhealthy occurrence to take place in such a famous place of worship which every Hindu respects with great reverence. Thousands of devout pilgrims visit the place to pay their homage and respect and to get peace of mind through prayer and worship. Thus it became all the more obligatory on the part of the Government to take precautionary measures against any clash with a view to preserving the sanctity of such a famous holy place. Curfew was imposed in the city. Orders were also issued that no devotee going to or coming from the Darbar Sahib for religious purpose should be stopped from doing so. In fact the curfew restrictions were meant for those unruly and mischievous people who were out to create trouble in the holy place. It is quite baseless and unfounded that the Government disrespected the Darbar Sahib and that the Government opened fire within its premises. Let me make this point clear for the information of hon. Members that the Government does not interfere with anybody's religion. It will not be out of place to mention here that some interested persons set a foot false propaganda against the Government with a view to grinding their own axes. Some people are very easily led astray by such interested people. But the Government is always trying its best to maintain law and order. I think that every individual should try to differentiate between truth and falsehood and thus not be led away by false propaganda. Here I am reminded of the speech of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, which he made in the Dominion Parliament and which I hope the hon. Members must have gone through. He has said that some interested people carry on false propaganda against the Government with



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[Premier]

a view to creating disorder and confusion in the country. The disaster brought about by this national menace is amply manifest from what is happening in China, Burma, and in East Bengal. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Members not to indulge in such propaganda. In the present circumstances it is highly dangerous to talk in terms of communism.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann :** Did not the Police open fire?

**Premier :** No. Police did not open fire. I wish to bring this point to the notice of the hon. Members that the present conditions do not permit the occurrence of any untoward happening in our country. We have to lead the country towards progress. We have to protect our province and the country with a joint effort even at the cost of our own lives against our common foe and I hope that the hon. Members will join me in this effort.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,07,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 25—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

*The motion was carried.*

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Tuesday, 22nd March 1949.*

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# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 22nd March 1949.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### INCREASE IN DACOITIES AND ROBBERIES IN DISTRICT KARNAL.

**\*826 Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of cases of dacoity and robbery which occurred in the year 1946 in Karnal District ;
- (b) the number of such cases during the year 1948 ;
- (c) the persons who are generally responsible for committing these offences and the district in West Punjab from which they migrated ;
- (d) what steps, if any, the Government has taken or propose to take to control the activities of such people ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 11 cases of dacoity and 61 of robbery occurred in that year in Karnal District.
- (b) 35 of dacoity and 97 of robbery.
- (c) Refugees mostly from Gujranwala and Sheikhpura were generally responsible for committing these offences. In some cases local residents and non-Sikh refugees were also concerned.
- (d) An Anti dacoity Staff was appointed in the District; extensive measures under the preventive sections of law were taken and systematic efforts to collect illicit arms were made. All these measures had a salutary effect and considerable success was achieved.

## GRANT AND LOAN TO REFUGEES

**\*614. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total amount paid to the refugees of each district in the form of grants and loans respectively from 1-4-48 to 31-4-48 ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** No amount of loan or grant was paid to the refugees in any district in the month of April, 1948. Loans aggregating Rs. 57,000/- were sanctioned in the month of April, 1948, but were disbursed of that month.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know why grant of loans to refugees was stopped during the month of April?

**Minister :** Because the scheme had not been sanctioned by that time.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How long does it take for a scheme to be sanctioned?

**Minister :** It takes its own course. The scheme is first prepared by the provincial Government and then submitted to the Central Government for sanction, which is accorded by the latter after careful consideration.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that Government had the requisite money for grant of loans in that month but it was not distributed?

**Minister :** No. This is not a fact.

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#### LANDS AND HOUSES ALLOTTED TO REFUGEES

**\*799. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to State:—

- (a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that large areas of land allotted to the refugees have not been cultivated;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of houses in the village used by the refugees are not being repaired;
- (c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative; what steps the Government has taken or propose to take to avoid this national waste?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) Some areas have remained uncultivated during Rabi due to failure of rains in time.
- (b) A large number of evacuee houses in villages are still unrepaired. Government has allowed grants for their repairs at the rate

of Rs. 100/- per house and this concession is being availed of where refugees help themselves.

- (c) After quasi-permanent allotment takes place a programme for repairing houses and assisting refugees to build new houses is expected to be undertaken with vigour.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether any action was taken against those refugees who did not till the land allotted to them?

**Minister :** No action was taken against them.

#### OLD NON-MUSLIM TENANTS CULTIVATING MUSLIM LANDS

**\*824. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of non-muslim tenants who cultivated Muslim lands before August, 1947 in Karnal District and how many of them cultivated Muslim lands since long i.e. were old tenants ;
- (b) the total area of land cultivated by such tenants together with the number of villages concerned ;
- (c) the number of such tenants who have been dispossessed of these lands on account of lands being allotted to the refugees ;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the local tenants have been forced to pay more rent and Batai than they used to pay to the Muslim land owners in the past ;
- (e) whether the Government has fixed any proportion of share between the allottees of such lands and the tenants thereof ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that mostly the lands cultivated by such tenants have been allotted to cultivator refugees and thus many tenants have become vacant ;
- (g) whether the Government is aware of the fact that as a result of the position stated above there have been many cases of rioting between the cultivator refugees and local tenants over possession of such lands ;
- (h) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) There were 5582 Non-Muslim tenants before August, 1947 who cultivated Muslim lands out of which 1855 were old tenants.
- (b) They cultivated 49211 acres of land in 408 villages.
- (c) 535 have been displaced but nearly all left of their own accord and are cultivating other lands.

[Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation]

- (d) No tenants are paying Batai at old rates.
- (e) No.
- (f) A certain proportion of land cultivated by resident tenants has been allotted to cultivator refugees.
- (g) No such complaint has been received, but some difficulties are bound to crop up here and there.
- (h) It is proposed that in quasi-permanent resettlement lands occupied by large concentrations of residents tenants should be given to big land owners who do not cultivate themselves.

### HOUSES BUILT FOR REFUGEES

**\*813. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be please to state :—

- (a) the number of the houses which have so far been built for the refugees in different towns in the Province ;
- (b) the names of the towns in which these houses have been built, with the approximate number of the houses in each case ;
- (c) the number of these houses so far sold in different towns ;
- (d) the total money spent on building these houses ;
- (e) the total money realised by Government out of the sale of these houses ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) 3843 houses have been constructed so far.
- (b) and (c) The number of house constructed and sold in each town is as under :-

<i>Name of town.</i>	<i>No. of houses constructed.</i>	<i>No. of houses so far sold.</i>
1. Jullundur	496	340
2. Hoshiarpur	200	98
3. Ludhiana	469	345
4. Khanna	202	28
5. Jagadhari	388	234
6. Karnal	492	170
7. Panipat	498	432
8. Sonipat	200	112
9. Rohtak	200	78
10. Gurgaon	200	168
11. Palwal	200	24
12. Rewari	298	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3843</b>	<b>2089</b>

(d) Expenditure upto 30-11-1948 was Rs. 1,63,23,799/-.

(e) So far Rs. 16,75,964/- have been recovered and Rs. 15,567/- are recoverable on account of the initial instalments offered by the purchasers at the auctions. Future instalments with interest @ 3% P. A. aggregate to Rs. 1,12,60,474/-.

**Sbri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister please let me know the reason as to why so many houses are still lying unsold? Are there no buyers for them?

**Minister :** This question should better be addressed to the purchasers. However, I think the main reason is that quasi-permanent allotment has not yet been completed. When that is done, the buyers will be in a position to know where they have to settle finally and these houses will then sell like anything.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government has made any effort to find out the cause for these houses not having been purchased by the refugees?

**Minister :** As I have already stated, the main cause is that the refugees are not at present sure where they will have to settle down finally. I feel that after the quasi-permanent allotment has been made, they will come forward to purchase these houses. For instance, people would not like to buy houses at Rewari unless they are certain that Government will settle them there by allotting lands quasi-permanently.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether, apart from non-allotment of lands quasi permanently, there is any other reason also on account of which these houses have not found ready sale with the refugees?

**Minister :** Yes, there are other reasons also. Purchasers have no money even to pay 5 per cent of the sale price. Then people are not aware as to where their kith and kin have to settle. Besides, the majority of middle or trading classes have settled down in the towns and they do not want to buy these houses because they find it cheaper to pay the rent of houses belonging to Muslim evacuees as compared with the instalments they are required to pay in 15 years in lieu of the sale price of the new houses. But as I have already stated after quasi-permanent allotment these houses will sell like hot cakes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Two reasons have been given by the hon. Minister. May I know whether the third reason is that the houses are mostly kutchha and very badly constructed?

**Minister :** I can assure my hon. Friend that not to say of light showers, even very heavy rains which might sub-merge the whole of Rohtak under water cannot damage the houses in any way.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is due to some agitation on the part of certain class of people that these houses should not be purchased ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member himself might be in the know of it.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is the Government aware that only the houses belonging to the contractors themselves have been strongly built and the rest are all kutchha and defective ?

**Minister :** I may tell the House a very interesting thing (*maze ki baat*). When the houses were being sold, I asked certain people who were working there and had earned fairly good sums of money as to why they did not buy them. The reply was that since they could get houses in the cities on a cheaper rent, they did not want to spend money on these houses.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the expression "*maze ki baat*" parliamentary ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I would request hon. Members to avoid such expressions. In the Punjabi language there are certain words and expressions which can be taken in bad sense also. Only yesterday an hon. Member used the word "*bazari*". Although it was not used in any bad sense and it was only used to mean common people, still it would be better if the use of such words and expressions is avoided.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** In the light of the ruling that you have been pleased to give, may I know whether the word "*bazari*" is unparliamentary or not?

**Mr. Speaker :** Whether a word is unparliamentary or not depends upon the sense in which and the circumstances under which it has been used. This particular word when used yesterday meant "*common people*" and is, therefore, not unparliamentary.

**Premier :** May I with your permission explain that this word was used to mean "*gossip*".

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Government if these houses remain vacant for an indefinite period, what use will they be put to ?



**Minister :** I can assure my hon. Friend that they will not remain vacant for an indefinite period. If, however, that contingency arises, the Government officials in that locality will be asked to occupy them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government sure that there has been no bungling about the construction of these houses?

**Premier :** There has been no bungling.

### CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS

**\*814. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number and the names of the new roads built by the Public Works Department during the last one year;
- (b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on building these roads?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

- (a) The following roads have been built by the P. W. D. during last year :—

1. Rupar Guzar-Nangal Road.
2. Amritsar Bhikhiwind Road.
3. Widening of G. T. Road in miles 16-33, 78-107, 108-117, 199-223, 224-250 and 251-274.

In addition work has been started on several roads where earthwork has been completed and materials are being collected.

- (b) The total figures of expenditure during the current financial year are not available but the anticipated expenditure is likely to be Rs. 78 lakhs.

**\*715. (Withdrawn)**

### SCHEME FOR COLLECTIVE FORMING IN THE PROVINCE

**\*716. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in the absence of law of primogeniture majority of the holdings in the Province have become so fragmented as to become uneconomic ;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme in hand of effective farming in view to encounter the effects of this evil ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A scheme for trying an experiment on collective farming versus other methods of farming is under consideration.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** At what stage is this scheme now ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Co-operative Department and Agriculture Department have been asked to make enquiries as to the villages which would like to adopt collective farming. Their report is awaited.

#### INSTALLATION OF TUBE WELLS

**\*717. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any programme for installing tube wells in the Province ;
- (b) whether any survey has been carried out to find out areas in the Province suitable for the installation of tube wells ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has promised any financial help towards installing of tube wells in the Province ;
- (d) whether the Provincial Government has any proposal to render financial help to private land owners in the installation of tube wells and, if so, to what extent ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Not yet.
- (c) The Central Government has been requested for financial help but its reply is still awaited.
- (d) First part —Yes.

Second part—The exact extent of subsidy to be given to an individual cultivator cannot be stated until the receipt of the approval of the Scheme from the Government of India.

**Shri Parbodh Chandra :** When was the scheme sent to the Government of India ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This scheme was sent to the Central Government about four months back.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What steps have been taken by the Government to give it a practical shape ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Sometime after the scheme had been forwarded, a reminder was sent. Moreover the hon. Minister for Development himself went over to Delhi to get the scheme expedited.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any reply been received from the Government of India ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No reply has so far been received. The Government of India are examining the question as to whether money should be given out of the "Grow More Food" fund or any other fund.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** On the one hand, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that no reply has so far been received and on the other he has stated that the Government of India are examining from which fund should the amount be given. May I know which of these two replies is correct ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We got an oral information from the Government of India that they were examining the question. No written reply has been received.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Why this delay ? Who is responsible for this negligence ?

**Premier :** There is no negligence. When such schemes are sent to the Government of India, they have to be examined from various aspects and that takes time.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Apart from the money to be given by the Central Government, will the provincial Government render any financial help ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not for sinking new tube-wells.

#### CULTIVATION OF WASTE LANDS

**\*718. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government has any proposal to force the owners of waste lands to bring their waste lands under cultivation and in the case of failure on their part to do so, to take them under their own management or to lease them out to those prepared to cultivate them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :** A proposal about such lands is under the consideration of Government but no decision has yet been arrived at.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Since how long is this proposal under the consideration of the Government ?

**Premier :** I require notice for this question.

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**OFFICERS DEPUTED TO STUDY WORKING OF CO-OPERATIVE  
INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE**

**\*720. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have sent any officers on deputation to study the working of Co-operative Institutions in European and American countries; if so, the names of these officers ?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

First part—None.

Second part—Does not arise.

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**DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN THE PROVINCE**

**\*719. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased state :-

- (a) what schemes of cottage industries, the Industries Department has in view which could be taken up by small land-holders in their spare time and whether any such scheme has been put into practice in any part of the Province;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme in view to provide training in cottage industries to students in schools and colleges ;
- (c) whether the Government has carried out a survey to find out what areas are suitable for the introduction of various cottage industries ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) The schemes of cottage industries in operation or in view of the Department of Industries which can be taken up by small land-holders in their spare time are mentioned below :-
  - (1) Rearing of silk cocoons, which is a three months occupation.
  - (2) Spinning and weaving occupation, which can be pursued throughout the year.
  - (3) Manufacture of Gur from Date-palm trees, which is a seasonal industry and can be pursued during the period from October to March each year.

- (4) Ban and rope making : a part-time industry.
- (5) Utilization of dead animals, their flaying and other products.
- (6) Silk reeling.
- (7) Bee-keeping.
- (8) Pottery.
- (9) Dairy and Poultry Farming.
- (10) Basketry.
- (11) Shoe-making.
- (12) Carpet-making.
- (13) Pashmina Weaving.
- (14) Hand-made papers.

Out of these the schemes mentioned at serial No. 1 & 6 are in operation at Palampur and Dalhousie and Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10 are in operation at Karnal, Jaijon Doaba (Hoshiarpur), Kangra and Simla, Ambala and Karnal respectively. In addition to this, several Demonstration parties have been established to popularize the spinning and weaving industry in East Punjab.

- (b) The Government has no such scheme, but in a number of rural schools training in a limited number of cottage industries is being imparted.
- (c) Survey for textile industry has been taken up. Survey of Kangra valley has also been started to ascertain the raw materials available and the types of industries that can be started in the district.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly give the names of the towns and villages which were visited by the demonstration parties that have been established ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Sir, in view of the fact that a large number of spinners from Jhang are available in the East Punjab, does the Government still consider it necessary to take special measures for teaching spinning in the province ?

**Minister for Finance :** This is a very good suggestion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Government receive any progress report about these works ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Quarterly reports are received.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** After examining these reports can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary say how much progress has been made in this direction ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I am afraid, Sir, the hon. Minister for Finance has not been able to catch what I said in my supplementary question, I did not give any suggestion; I wanted certain information. With your permission I would repeat my question. My question is whether, in view of the fact that a number of expert spinners and weavers from Jhang District and from other parts of the West Punjab are available in the East Punjab, the Government still considers it necessary to institute special measures for teaching spinning in the province.

**Minister for Finance :** The answer is that the number of expert spinners and weavers from Jhang district is not adequate and the need of the province is that the Government should open more centres.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received any representation from the spinners of Jhang district that they do not get enough yarn and consequently they are without any work ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Their representation was that a new centre should be opened in Rohtak District and a centre has been opened to meet their demand.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it not a fact that a very large number of ladies and others from Jhang district and also from other districts who are well versed in the art of spinning and weaving are available in the province and they are without any work ?

**Minister for Finance :** I am not aware of that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When and where in Rohtak district has this centre been opened ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** One centre was opened about three months ago in Sonipat and another about a month ago in Rohtak itself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Who and how many persons teach spinning in those centres ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Spinning is not taught in these centres; only charkha and cotton are given to the ladies who are paid for the labour of spinning yarn.



**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please say if it is a fact that there are a large number of ladies who can spin but who have not the facility to turn out yarn ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We are providing charkhas and cotton from these centres on security of Rs. 8/- for a charkha and one seer of cotton and as I have told before, spinning charges are paid to those ladies who want to make use of this scheme.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Have charkhas been distributed in such numbers that there is no scope for more distribution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There is scope for more distribution and we are making efforts to extend this scheme. Government is considering to open 10 more such centres.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** When there is a large number of ladies who know spinning, where is the need for opening more centres ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The new centres are not to be opened for teaching spinning but for the distribution of charkhas and cotton to those who want to earn spinning charges.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How many charkhas have been distributed from Sonipat and other centres in the province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** 600 charkhas have been distributed from Sonipat and 10 thousand from other centres.

#### APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

**\*760. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total number and names of persons together with their addresses employed in the department of Industries since 15th August, 1947 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** A statement is laid on the Table <sup>1</sup>.

#### COMPLAINTS RE SHORTAGE OF STATIONERY IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

**\*823. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints about the acute shortage of Stationery in various Government offices in the Province ;

[Chaudhri Jagdish Chander]

(b) what steps, if any, Government has taken in this matter.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes. Some complaints have been received from certain departments.
- (b) The Chief reason for the shortage of Stationery was the fact that the Stationery Stores at Lahore were not partitioned and the East Punjab Government had to start from scratch. After our own Stationery office had been established and orders for the supply of Stationery placed, there was further delay due to booking restrictions. However, now, most of the restrictions have been removed and the Stores were received in December, 1948. They are now being despatched expeditiously, and it is expected that there will be no difficulty in future.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has just said that the stores of stationery were received in December, 1948, may I know if complaints have been received from certain officers during the last three months of the shortage of stationery ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** None.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact.....

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know, Sir, if Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is entitled to ask supplementary questions without being called by the Chair ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Unless an hon. Member is called to ask a supplementary question he has no right to put it. If three or four hon. Members rise in their places, they should not straightaway begin to ask questions but wait till one of them is called. Only that Member should put the question; other hon. Members should wait their turn.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If there is only one hon. Member who wants to put a supplementary question, has he also to wait till he is called ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Even if there is one Member who wants to put a supplementary question, he has no right to jump up in his seat and begin to ask his question; he has also to wait till he is called by the Chair.

**Premier :** According to our rules no question can be put to the hon. Speaker.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it not a fact that some of the offices have remained without stationery for quite a long period of six months or so ?

**Minister for Finance :** We have already admitted our difficulties and have explained that this thing will not occur in future.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Have the police zimnis been printed and sent to all police stations ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is this shortage of stationery equally distributed on all offices or some offices are affected more and others less ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There can be difference in the extent of shortage of stationery in different offices.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How long after August 1947, was the order for stationery placed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice to find out this information.

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**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE RECEIVED BY THE HON. MINISTERS  
FROM 15TH AUGUST, 1947 TO 31ST MARCH, 1948**

**\*619 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total amount received by each of the hon. Ministers of the East Punjab Government as Travelling Allowance during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, on account of the journeys undertaken by Air and Road, respectively?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** The statement below gives the required information.

		15-8-1947 to 31-3-1948		
	<i>By Air</i>	<i>By Road</i>		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Hon. Premier.	Nil	8798	10	0
Hon. Minister for Home and Revenue.	Nil	9315	4	0
Hon. Minister for Public Works.	Nil	10422	4	6
Hon. Minister for Civil Supplies.	Nil	8082	0	0
Hon. Minister for Development.	Nil	8344	8	0
Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.	Nil	10806	12	0
Hon. Minister for Labour and Excise.	Nil	7616	8	0

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RAILWAY FARE BORNE BY GOVERNMENT FOR JOURNEYS  
OF MINISTERS

**\*620. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total amount borne by the Government as railway fare in connection with the journeys performed by each of the hon. Ministers of the East Punjab Government during the period (i) 15-8-47 to 31-3-48 and (ii) 1-4-48 to 30-9-48?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chahd Bhargava :** The statement below gives the required information :

	15-8-1947 to 31-3-1948	1-4-1948 to 30-9-1948
Hon. Premier.	Nil	844 8 0
Hon. Minister for Home & Revenue.	Nil	256 2 0
Hon. Minister for Labour & Excise.	Nil	291 4 0
Hon. Minister for Public Works.	Nil	Nil
Hon. Minister for Development.	Nil	Nil
Hon. Minister for Relief & Rehabilitation	612-2-0	Nil
Hon. Minister for Finance.	Nil	Nil

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Sir, the reply to this question is lengthy and normally a copy of it should have been supplied to me.

**Mr. Speaker :** Since the hon. Premier did not lay it on the table and has preferred to reply it on the floor of the House, a copy of the reply could not be sent to the hon. Member earlier.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Since the travelling allowance of the hon. Ministers by rail is almost nil, do I take it that their travelling allowance for journeys performed by road also comes to the same figure ?

**Premier :** I may inform the hon. Member that when a Minister travels by rail, he does not get any travelling allowance but the Railway debit that amount to the department concerned. But if any hon. Minister performs journey by road in his own car, then he gets the travelling allowance.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Then travelling by rail is not a paying proposition ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member should know that travelling allowance is never made a source of profit or making money by the hon. Ministers.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that when the hon. Ministers go on tours, their Parliamentary Secretaries travel with them and yet draw their travelling allowances ?

**Premier :** Not to my knowledge, Sir.

**Chaudhari Suraj Mal :** May I know whether, in view of the scarcity of petrol, it is a fact that Government has framed a rule that those places which are connected by rail, should not be visited by cars ?

**Premier :** A rule to this effect does exist. But if an officer has to break journey at places which fall midway between the Headquarters and the place of destination, then he is allowed to travel by car.

**Chaudhari Suraj Mal :** May I know whether that rule is applicable to the hon. Ministers as well ?

**Premier :** No, Sir.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it or is it not a fact that if some one travels in a Minister's compartment, he is required to buy a ticket ?

**Premier :** Yes. It is absolutely necessary.

#### EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCE

**\*722. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total amount of expenses that are being incurred to run the Publicity Department of this Province ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Rupees 5,67,500/- were provided in the Budget for the year 1948-49, for the Publicity Department, East Punjab.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know how much and what is the nature of the work that has been accomplished by the Publicity Department for which such a big amount was earmarked ?

**Premier :** The department does all the publicity connected with the Governmental activities.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the work of the Publicity Department is only to give publicity to the tours of the hon. Ministers ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF CEMENT IN THE PROVINCE

**\*723. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that people in the Province excepting the favoured few cannot obtain cement except through the black market ;

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh]

- (b) Whether the Government has instituted any enquiry in regard to this matter ;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Government has provided any special facilities for obtaining cement for use in connection with wells, 'Chaupals', school buildings, charitable institutions; if so, what are those facilities?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) and (b) No complaints of the nature have reached Government. If hon. Member can inform me of specific cases, I shall surely enquire into them.
- (c) Yes. Monthly allotments are made to the Director of Agriculture for the sinking of wells. As regards chaupals, school buildings etc. the District Magistrates have already been instructed to ensure that a reasonable quantity of cement goes to institutions and consumers in the rural areas.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that cement is not obtainable in the open market but it can be had in abundance in the black market ?

**Premier :** Not to my knowledge as I do not purchase cement. But I have already stated that if the hon. Member can inform me of any specific cases, I shall most certainly look into the matter.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** May I know whether in this connection the hon. Premier has ever taken the trouble of finding out the mandis where black market is practised, and bringing the offenders to book?

**Premier** If the hon. Member gives notice of any specific case, enquiries will be made. It is difficult to take action on generalizations.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that the contractors in collusion with the officers in charge of the Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects, sell Government cement in black market?

**Premier :** The hon. Member's query has already been answered on the floor of the House. He may please refer to it.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is it not tantamount to an evasion of reply ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Not at all.



**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the percentage of cement allocated for and actually used in the construction of wells etc.

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I know whether every district has been allocated a separate quota of cement ?

**Premier :** A committee has been appointed to consider all the demands of cement that come to it from the district authorities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government has issued any instructions on the basis of which cement is to be allocated ?

**Premier :** As a matter of fact, previously the Deputy Commissioners used to decide the distribution of cement in their respective districts but now this work has been entrusted to a central committee.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** My point is whether any instructions have been issued to that Committee or any rules have been framed which govern the distribution of cement in the districts.

**Premier :** Lists for demands of cement are prepared by the Committee and then equitable distribution is made.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I know whether it is a fact that a major portion of the cement of the province is consumed in towns and the villages get very little share of it ?

**Premier :** No, that is not a fact. Government departments receive separate quotas of cement. For instance, the Agriculture Department is allocated cement for purposes of sinking wells etc. and the Industries Department is given cement for industrial purposes. So far as cement meant for civil consumption is concerned, a separate quota is allotted.

#### CLOTH RATIONING DEPOT IN RURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE

**\*724. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that cloth rationing depots in rural areas are few and far between;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) No. The policy laid down by Government is that in rural areas there should be one authorized depot for every 1500 card holders and that depots should be so located that no villager should have to travel more than 4 or 5 miles to get his supplies of cloth. From the information supplied by District Textile Officers to Government it has been observed that the number of existing authorised retail depots in rural areas of this province is in excess of the number prescribed by Government. The distance of authorised retail depots in rural areas from the villages attached to them ranges between half a mile to five miles and in no case exceeds five miles. Since cloth supplies are drawn once in three months, no inconvenience is involved.
- (b) In view of the facts stated above, Government does not propose to take any further action in the matter. In case, however, any concrete instance is brought to the notice of Government where distance between an authorised retail depot and the villages attached to it is longer than five miles, necessary action will be taken in the matter.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On the last occasion when cloth rationing was introduced, the depot holders used to come to the villages for selling cloth, but this time the consumers have to go to the depot holders. May I know why this change has been made ?

**Premier :** On the last occasion there was complete control on the supply of cloth and rationing was meant for everybody. This time, however, 60% of the total supply of cloth is rationed and is meant for those whose income is Rs. 125/- per month or less. The remaining 40% is available in the open market.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Is the Government aware that this system of villagers having to go to the depot holders is causing great inconvenience to the villagers ?

**Premier :** I do not think there is any inconvenience. If anybody feels inconvenience, he can buy cloth in the open market out of the 40% quota allotted for that purpose.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** Is the policy uniform throughout the province?

**Premier :** Yes.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** There seems to be some variation so far as Ferozepore district is concerned. There cloth is distributed on ration cards only.

**Premier :** In the Ferozepore district, the number of card-holders is 184,857 and for this number 123 depots are required but in fact there are 179 depots and none of the depots is more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles away from the villages attached to it.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the 40% cloth meant for sale in the open market is being sold in the black market?

**Premier :** No cloth is being sold at black market rates as more cloth than is being sold is available.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Government consider the desirability of adopting full control and bring 40% cloth also under rationing?

**Premier :** Our information is that the demand of cloth is less than the supply. If and when, the demand is more and it is sold at black market rates, we will not hesitate to introduce complete rationing.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Is the Government aware that the number of cards that are prepared is less than it should be on population basis and one of the reasons is that people have to cover long distances to have their cards prepared?

**Premier :** It might be, but as far as my information goes there is no difficulty on that account.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that another reason for this reduced number of cards is that the application forms are in English and many people cannot fill them?

**Premier :** No.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Was any representation received by the Government that in Gurdaspur the depot holders registered the cards of those persons only whose family members were 6 or 7 and not of those whose family comprised of one or two persons?

**Premier :** I do not remember to have seen any such representation. If, however, such a representation has been made action must have been taken on it to set the matters right.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any yardage of cloth been fixed for one depot or does it depend upon the number of card holders ?

**Premier :** According to the rules there is one authorized depot for every 1500 card holders and as much cloth is given as is considered necessary to meet the requirements.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the Government aware of the fact that cards with 9 or 10 family members are registered with influential depot holders while those depot holders who have no approach to the officers get only those cards for registration which are for one or two family members ?

**Premier :** I am glad to learn from the hon. Member that contrary to the general feeling that has been created by interested persons, people who have no approach or influence with the officers also get depots.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that in many cases there are serious mistakes in regard to the prices that are stamped on cloth, e.g. instead of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  annas,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  rupees are stamped and *vice versa* ? (*Laughter.*)

**Premier :** If the hon. Member can give any particular instance, it will be looked into.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the consumers in rural areas are not getting any fine cloth and all the fine cloth is taken away by Civil Supplies and other officers?

**Premier :** I am not aware. The hon. Member is in the habit of making such propaganda.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** How many harijans have been given depots ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice. I shall get the required information for him.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the Government give depots to a co-operative society if one is formed in a village ?

**Premier :** Government has issued instructions that if a demand for opening a depot comes from a co-operative society, it should be complied with.

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## DELAY IN GIVING EFFECT TO THE EAST PUNJAB KEROSENE OIL (PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION) CONTROL ORDER, 1949

**\*725. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the reasons for delay in issuing the East Punjab Kerosene Oil (Price and Distribution) Control Order, 1949;
- (b) the reasons for not giving immediate effect to this Control Order ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) It is not understood what the hon. Member exactly means by delay in the issue of the East Punjab Kerosene Oil (Price and Distribution) Control Order, 1949.
- (b) It was not possible to enforce the Control Order in full on the date of its issue as a lot of preliminary arrangements have to be made before the rationing can actually start. Parts of the Control Order were enforced simultaneously with the issue of Control Order to enable the district authorities to undertake preliminary arrangements. The remaining provisions of the Control Order will be enforced as and when these arrangements are completed.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Is it a fact that the zamindars have experienced a great difficulty in the preparation of *gur* for want of kerosene oil ?

**Premier :** Deputy Commissioners were asked to supply kerosene oil to those zamindars who prepare *gur*.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Why so late ?

**Premier :** As soon as it was brought to our notice, we took action.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Why has such delay been caused to control kerosene oil and supply it on ration cards ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member can very well appreciate that it takes time. Stocks have to be examined, cards have to be printed, staff has to be engaged and so on. The Deputy Commissioners were, however, instructed to requisition kerosene oil wherever possible and, as I have already stated, to supply it to those who prepare *gur*.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Can the hon. Premier give an instance of a single district where such instructions were issued ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I will give him the names of all the districts where oil was supplied according to these instructions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that scarcity of oil was brought to the notice of Government before season for gur preparation started ?

**Premier :** Instructions to requisition oil and supply the same to gur manufacturers were issued when gur was being prepared.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will kerosene oil be distributed through co-operative societies ?

**Premier :** Wherever a co-operative society is formed and they ask for oil it will be supplied.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Has the Government issued instruction to Civil Supplies Officers to open depots wherever a co-operative society is formed ?

**Premier :** It has been decided that wherever a co-operative society is formed and a demand is made for the supply of kerosene oil, it should be supplied.

#### ISSUE OF PETROL COUPONS TO HON. MINISTERS

**\*788. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of petrol coupons (basic and supplementary) issued to each hon. Minister every month during the current financial year.
- (b) the amount of Travelling Allowance drawn every month by each hon. Minister during this period ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) The required information is given in the enclosed statement I. <sup>1</sup>
- (b) The requisite information is given in the attached statement II. <sup>1</sup>

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** While paying T. A., does Government take into account the number of petrol coupons used by each Minister and make sure that the T. A. charged is according to the number of coupons used and petrol consumed ?

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library.



**Premier :** Travelling allowance is not paid according to the number of petrol coupons issued to each Minister. It is paid according to the journey actually performed by them. They return the un-used coupons while there were certain people who managed to run three cars without supplementary coupons.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On a point of order Sir. For some time I have been noticing that the hon. Premier always imputes personal motives to the members who put supplementary questions. Is it parliamentary to give personal tinge to everything.

**Mr. Speaker :** I always point out to the hon. Members that personal motives should be avoided.

**Premier :** Sir, may I say a few words on this point of order. Whatever I say in replies to supplementary questions is always parliamentary and I am afraid that the insinuation which the hon. Member wants to level against me is absolutely baseless. I do not know why it pinches the hon. Member when I say anything.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, his tone and attitude is harsh.

**Premier :** There is no truth in what the hon. Member says.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I, Sir..... (*up-roar and shouts of 'order order'*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Order, Order.

**Minister for Public Works :** Shut up.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, are the Ministers allowed to create rowdyism in the House?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. It is most unfortunate that such a thing should happen in the House and I expect from every hon. Member that he would preserve the dignity of the House.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I want to ask a question.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would like to know if the hon. Member wants to say anything about the statement made by the hon. Premier or he wants to ask a supplementary question on the original question. If he wants to say anything about the statement I will not allow that.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, is he allowed ... ..

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, Sardar Swaran Singh always begins to plead the case of everybody.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already asked some of the hon. Ministers that they should not get anxious to reply.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, I rise on a point of order. The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh has used the words 'shut up' just a while ago. Is the use of this expression parliamentary? If it is not he should be asked to withdraw it.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Minister has used the words 'shut up' he should withdraw them. The use of such words in the House is unparliamentary.

**Minister for Public Works :** Sir, I withdraw the words.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Members to always address the chair and not each other directly that creates un-necessary heat.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Premier has said in his reply that the Ministers return un-used coupons, may I know how many coupons have been returned by them?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member wants this information he will have to give notice of a question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** From the statement supplied to me I find that in the month of June 200 petrol coupons were issued to hon. Captain Ranjit Singh and the amount of T. A. is Rs. 2072/2/- but in the month of July although the number of petrol coupons is 200 but the amount of T. A. is Rs. 1305/10/-. Will the hon. Premier kindly let us know the reason in the difference of amount of T. A., when the amount of petrol consumed is the same in both the months?

**Premier :** T. A. is drawn for the mileage that is done during a journey but if a Minister stays at a place for some days and uses petrol there, he is not entitled to any T. A. though he uses the coupons.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the difference in the amounts of T.A. drawn by hon. Sardar Partap Singh during June and July for the same reasons?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice I will find out the reasons.

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EXCESSES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AT VILLAGE DANEWAL,  
DISTRICT FEROZEPUR AND CERTAIN VILLAGES OF  
PATTI TEHSIL

**\*831. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he received a letter dated 27-1-48 from Sardar Sajjan Singh Margindpuri M.L.A., regarding the excesses of certain

officers at village Danewal District Ferozepore and in certain villages of Patti, District Amritsar; if so, whether he would lay a copy of the letter on the table;

- (b) whether any enquiry was made in the cases referred to above; if so, the results thereof ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) The letter in question does not appear to have been received.  
(b) Does not arise.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS POSTS

**\*834. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Public Service Commission ordinarily recommends to the Government double the number of persons required to be appointed ;  
(b) whether it is also a fact that in the case of recruitment of Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Public Service Commission was asked by the Government to recommend more persons to make the final selection ;  
(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chairman of the Public Service Commission lodged a protest against this procedure ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.  
(b) and (c). The correspondence between Government and the Public Service Commission is confidential and I regret I am precluded from disclosing the same.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that although the Public Service Commission recommended double the number of candidates for the vacant posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police yet the Government asked them to send four more names before they made the final selection ?

**Minister :** I have already said in my reply that the correspondence between Government and the Public Service Commission is confidential. But to allay any mis-givings I am prepared to tell the House that the first five candidates recommended by the Public Service Commission in order of merit have been appointed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the four names sent up later by the Public Service Commission included the name of a person who is a relation of one of the ministers ?

**Minister :** And in spite of that he has not been taken.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if it is not a fact that the four names were called up in order to accommodate the relation of one of the ministers but the President of the Public Service Commission strongly protested against this procedure and only then wisdom dawned on the Government ?

**Premier :** Sir, the information given by the hon. Member is wrong and the insinuation which he implies is baseless.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that four names were called up later on ?

**Premier :** Sir, I have already said that the insinuation is baseless. The hon. Member is in the habit of imputing motives.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I ask whether the ministers or any of the ministers try to influence the decisions of the Public Service Commission ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is a general question.

**Premier :** The insinuation is baseless.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Home Minister has accepted that four names were called up but the hon. Premier is denying it. May I know who is correct ?

**Premier :** There is no difference between the two. Whatever has been stated is correct. If the hon. Member cannot understand I cannot help him.

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REFUND OF EXCESS AMOUNT CHARGED FOR WHEAT SOLD  
FOR SEED PURPOSES TO AGRICULTURISTS

**\*621. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the October 1948 Session of this Assembly, Government promised to refund the amount charged in excess of the cost price per maund for the wheat sold to the agriculturists for seed purposes ;
- (b) the procedure adopted by the Government to refund this amount ;
- (c) the total quantity of the wheat sold to the cultivators for seed purposes from 1-10-48 to 31-12-48 together with the cost thereof borne by the Government ;

- (d) the total amount charged from the cultivators for the wheat sold during the period referred to above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.
- (c) (i) 1,27,386 maunds.
- (ii) This seed was purchased from the Food Department, East Punjab at a rate of Rs. 19/-per maund for all districts except Kulu Sub-Division of the Kangra district, where the rate charged was Rs. 22/-per maund.
- (d) It is regretted that the total amount charged from the cultivators is not available. Sale price varied from place to place in accordance with the incidental charges and market rates *vide* details given below :—

Name of the Districts.	Sale price
Rohtak	Rs. 19/8/- to Rs. 23/4/- per maund.
Gurdaspur	Rs. 23/-/- to Rs. 25/-/- per maund.
Ludhiana	Rs. 20/8/- to Rs. 24/-/- per maund.
Karnal	Rs. 20/8/- to Rs. 23/- per maund.
Gurgaon	Rs. 22/-/- to Rs. 25/- per maund.
Ferozepore	Rs. 20/12/- to Rs. 25/- per maund.
Hissar	Rs. 19/8/- to Rs. 23/- per maund
Jullundur	Rs. 21/-/- to Rs. 22/- per maund.
Amritsar	Rs. 23/ per maund.
Kangra	Rs. 22/8/- to Rs. 26/- per maund.
Simla (a) Kotgarh	Rs. 26/- to Rs. 28/- per maund
(b) Kotkhai	Rs. 28/- per maund.
(c) Simla	Rs. 21/- to Rs. 24/- per maund.
(d) Sabathu	Rs. 20/- to Rs. 21/- per maund.
Hoshiapur	Rs. 20/8/- to Rs. 23/- per maund.
Ambala	Rs. 20/8/- to Rs. 22/8/- per maund.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**TRANSFER OF SARDAR ROSHAN SINGH AND SARDAR KARAM SINGH, SUB-INSPECTOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, MAHILPUR CIRCLE, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR**

**199. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Roshan Singh and Sardar Karam Singh (on probation) Sub-Inspectors, Co-operative

[Pandit Mohan Lal Datta]

Societies, were transferred on the same date from Mahilpur Circle, district Hoshiarpur ;

- (b) whether the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, got any report from the District authorities for their transfer ;
- (c) the reasons for their transfer ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that no substitute came to take over their work for more than a fortnight ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Sardar Karam Singh was to finish his probation period on the 18th February, 1949 while his transfer was made a fortnight earlier ?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

- (a) and (b) Yes.
- (c) The transfers were made for administrative reasons.
- (d) The selection and posting of substitutes did take some time.
- (e) No.

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**POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF  
THE MAHILPUR CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD., MAHILPUR**

**200. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the meeting for the election of Directors of the Mahilpur Co-operative Union Ltd., Mahilpur which was to take place on the 20th February, 1949, was ordered to be postponed by the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies; if so, the reasons thereof ;
- (b) the authority under which the Deputy Registrar Co-operative Societies acted when he gave orders to postpone the general meeting of the Union ?

**The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :**

- (a) Yes. This was considered necessary by the Deputy Registrar in the larger interests of the Co-operative movement in the area of operation of the Union, on a reference made to him under rule 18 of the rules made by the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, and published with Punjab Government notification No. 13819, dated the 23rd June, 1947, as subsequently amended.
- (b) Rule 18 cited above.

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**LAND LEFT BY MUSLIM EVACUEES**

**201. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-



- (a) the total area of land belonging to the Muslim evacuees now reserved for (i) Garden colonies and (ii) agriculture farming by the Government ;
- (b) what percentage, the above areas bear to the cultivable standard acres total area of land left by the Muslim evacuees in the Province ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (i) The total area reserved for garden colonies is 20,000 acres which will be allotted in quasi-permanent settlement to refugee land-holders against their holdings in Western Pakistan ;
- (ii) 13495 acres of evacuee area has been reserved for Seed Farms.

In case of (a) (i) earmarking of the entire area is not yet completed. The percentage cannot be given in terms of Standard acres. In terms of ordinary acres it is .008. As regards (a) (ii) the percentage is 0.002 in terms of Standard acres.

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#### ISSUING OF ABIANA AND CANAL WATER TAWAN PARCHIES

**202. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that under the rules, Abiana and canal water Tawan parchies and notices respectively are handed over to the persons concerned and it is not compulsory for the canal *Patwari* to take signature of every individual concerned ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that many of the parchies and notices are handed over to the village headmen who are mostly illiterate and they often fail to hand them over to the proper person, the parchies and notices in time ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative whether the Government is aware of the fact that majority of the Zamindars are never able to file their objections in time to the authorities concerned and have to pay Abiana and Tawan which could be easily waived, had they filed their objections in time; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (b) Parchies are distributed through *Lambardars*, who take receipts of cultivators, and notices are served by Canal *Patwaris*.

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

- (c) The existing rules provide ample opportunities for lodging objections even in cases of non-delivery of parchies.

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### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Yesterday the hon. Premier, while referring to a certain portion of my speech pointed out that what I had stated was based on 3 P. M. bazaar gossip. In fact he challenged that my statement was not based on facts. Through you, Sir, I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that the P.A. of the hon. Premier had made a statement in Delhi before a political leader of a high standing. I would like to place that statement before the hon. Premier if he so desires.

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### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I beg to move:—

That rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure be suspended and the Assembly may transact Government Business on Thursday, the 24th March, 1949.

*The motion was carried.*

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### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Minister for Finance :** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,31,74,700 be granted to Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 57-Miscellaneous.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,31,74,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 57-Miscellaneous.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*):--Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 3,43,48,000 on account of relief to refugees be reduced by Rs. 100.

It has not given me any pleasure to move this Cut Motion. I am fully aware of the events which took place during the year 1947 from beginning to the end. I am also not unaware of the difficulties and the hardships which our Government had to experience while evacuating our displaced brethren from the West Punjab. I do not want to be ungrateful to our brethren of East Punjab. On my behalf and on behalf of my refugee brethren I thank them for the help we received at their hands. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not place the feelings of the people, outside this House before the Government, to the effect that the rehabilitation work is being done in a most unsatisfactory manner. Before I dwell upon the main subject, I feel it necessary to throw some light on the point as to how far our brethren from West Punjab, who are at present living here as refugees, were responsible themselves for being reduced to such a condition. Was this calamity a self sought one and were they themselves responsible for this to any extent? Did they also do certain things as a result of which they were reduced to such a condition?

While the Independence Movement was going on in the country, non-Muslims of those areas, which is now known as Pakistan, faithfully, honestly and zealously followed the policy of the great leaders of the country. They obeyed the great leaders of the movement. During the last elections, the main thing that was before the public was that complete freedom was to be achieved and that in no case was the country going to be partitioned. At that time the people were determined to achieve complete freedom and they had this strong conviction that the freedom of the truncated country was no freedom at all. In fact it was on this basis and with this slogan that the Congress nominated its own members for fighting the elections, and the non-Muslims of West Punjab so faithfully followed the Congress programme and at the same time carried out their instructions, that I think I am right when I say that there was hardly any Hindu in West Punjab who dared to fight the elections against the Congress nominee. So far as the Sikhs were concerned, I cannot do without saying that in spite of the fact that they did fight the elections against the Congress nominees, they also did not give up their main slogan of non-acceptance of the partition of the country. It will not be out of place to mention here that those who fought the elections

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on the Communist ticket used to hold the view that independence should be achieved after joining hands with the Muslim League and accepting Pakistan. They even went to the extent of rousing the masses but none of their candidates succeeded in the elections.

The aims and policy of the Muslim League were diametrically opposed to the Congress policy. They wanted to have a separate state for themselves, in which they might be able to establish 'Islamic Raj' in accordance with the law of 'Sharyat'. Every non-Muslim knew that there would be no place for him in such a state. Our leaders too were conscious of it. At the time when partition was decided upon as the only solution of the country's ills Hindus and Sikhs of West Punjab, even though they knew that it would be impossible for them to live in a state based on religion, supported the leaders of the country, ratified their decision and stood loyally behind them. Before that, when the Unionist-Congress coalition was formed, the behests of the Congress leaders were carried out and obeyed. Afterwards, when in 1947, this Ministry resigned, numerous efforts were made by the Muslim League Party to persuade the Non-Muslim members to join them in a Coalition Ministry, but in spite of all the temptations, we stuck firmly to the Congress Policy and refused to have anything to do with the Muslim Leaguers. I want to emphasize, Sir, that the non-Muslims of West Punjab supported the Congress policy at every juncture and never went against the instructions of the Congress High Command. When the partition was agreed to by our leaders and the Punjab Assembly was divided into two parts to vote on the question of partition of the province, we the Hindu and Sikh Members endorsed the decision arrived at by the Congress leaders and voted in the favour of partition. The people of West Punjab knew that by voting against partition they could drag the people of East Punjab along with them but they resisted this temptation and acting according to the wishes of the Congress leaders voted for partition and agreed to bring troubles on themselves alone. The partition, from the evil effects of which we are suffering to-day, was decided upon and agreed to by our leaders. The people who have come from West Punjab, are not themselves to blame for their sad plight. They did nothing to deserve this fate. In spite of so many hardships that they have had to face since their migration to India, they have been behaving quite well and have not in any way troubled or bothered the Government unnecessarily. Whatever difficulties the Government of this province have had to face soon after its birth, were in no way caused by the refugees. The people of East Punjab were responsible for all that happened in this province after the partition. The refugees took no part in these happenings, which caused so much worry to the newly formed Government.

Now, Sir, I come to the problem of rehabilitation. Just as the demand of rehabilitation has been divided into two parts—Urban and Rural, similarly I shall first discuss urban rehabilitation and then the problem of rural rehabilitation.

Regarding urban rehabilitation, I have not to say much. I will leave it to other Friends to discuss it in detail. I shall confine myself to a few remarks only. From the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister we get the impression that the Government is not prepared to do anything for the resettlement of urban refugees excepting shedding tears of sympathy over their fate. I am reminded of what women on our side do, when some person dies in the mohalla. They go to his house and make his relatives weep and cry and come back, without giving anything to the bereaved family.

The attitude of our Government towards the urban refugees is also somewhat similar. While it has admitted that they have suffered a lot, it is not prepared to do anything substantial to relieve their sufferings or to give them any help. All that our Finance Minister has done to console them is to utter a few words of sympathy. He has said that after all rehabilitation is only a temporary problem, and before long conditions would be normal in the Province. Is this all that the urban refugees can expect from their Government? It is not enough on the part of our Government to associate itself with their grief. It must do something material to help them. The miseries and the sufferings of the urban refugees are beyond description. They are being driven from pillar to post, from town to town. If they go and settle in one town, they are told this is not a refugee town and are asked to quit it. If they refuse to do so, they are forcibly driven out. Even though they do not give any trouble or inconvenience to the local people, they are made scapegoats for all the crimes committed in the town and false complaints are lodged against them.

Now, Sir, I would like to express my views about the Inter-Dominion Agreement regarding the exchange and sale etc. of evacuees' property. I wonder, Sir, how our hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar who was on the Indian delegation agreed to the various provisions of this agreement. May I ask him if he did not know that no poor refugee would be able to proceed to Pakistan territory and arrange for the disposal of his property? Does he not know that propaganda has already started in Pakistan urging the Muslims not to purchase the property of Hindus and Sikhs? Is it not a fact that Muslims would not be prepared to pay anything to us? How can then we hope to sell our property, that we have left behind. If the agreement and decisions arrived under it remain unaltered, I am sure barring a



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few influential persons, no poor refugee would be able to dispose of his property and get anything for it. The agreement in question is very defective and should be altered as early as possible.

There is another thing, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. We have heard that the Pakistan Government has decided to charge rent at the rate of only 20% of the assessed rental value of our houses in West Punjab from the Muslim refugees. They have also decided that those Muslim refugees who are willing to pay the rent there and then, would be allowed a remission of another 10%. Now what is happening here? Our brethren are being compelled to pay rent according to the rental value of the houses (as entered in property assessment registers) which they are occupying. Moreover the rents are being realized from them without taking into consideration the accommodation or the condition of the house. The harshness that is being practised upon them does not end here. They have been asked to pay the rent since December 1947. To ask the people who have lost their all, to pay arrears of rent is the greatest hardship to which they can be subjected. Sir, it would be a great injustice to charge from the poor displaced people anything more than a nominal rent. If the Government cannot give them any help by way of relief, it should at least agree to accept less rent from them—rent which they can afford to pay. It is a great injustice to charge high rents from those refugees who did not think it proper to be a burden on the Government by living in camps at Government expense and, therefore, decided to settle down some where, in some town. If they are asked to pay rents beyond their means, they would begin to think that they were better off in camps, where they were being supplied with rations and other things. Will they not think that they are being made to pay high rents, because they did not like to be a burden on the Government? By charging high rents, does the Government intend to give them the impression that they are being punished for this?

Sir, the Government have made three important decisions with regard to rural rehabilitation.

- (i) Evaluation ;
- (ii) Graded cuts ;
- (iii) Allocation.

Firstly, I take up the evaluation. I have not the least hesitation in saying that the value of the land left by the refugees in the West Punjab has not been properly assessed. The refugees have been hard hit by such decisions. The Government should assess the value of this land at higher rate and should allot the land of the corresponding value to the refugees



in the East Punjab. The assessment of value has been made irrespective of the categories of land. Supposing if the land possessed by a refugee was best for the production of wheat it should have been evaluated according to the price of the produce which it yielded. At the time of allotment of land this consideration should have prevailed with the authorities that such persons should have got the land of the same quality. It is sheer injustice to the landholders who were in possession of fertile land to allot them land which is less fertile. These lands yielded bumper crops and their valuation has been underestimated. It is an irony of fate that many of those persons who had held less fertile land will be highly benefitted by the proposed evaluation scheme while those who were holding really fertile lands will be made to suffer tremendously. I must voice the grievances of these landholders who have been affected by the decisions of the Government. I know that the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation while replying to the debate, will fling the blame upon me as I was also a member of that Advisory Board. I must say that in such Boards we had little voice and the view points of the official members generally carried weight. If I had raised this point there I am sure my request would have been turned down. The method of graded cuts does not appear to be reasonable and the Government has been ill-advised to adopt this course. There is no justification in levying any cut on the refugees. The land-owning refugees, have every right, to be allotted as much land as left by them to make a decent living. With the drastic cuts only a few of them will eke out subsistence from land and others would be reduced to abject straits. Those responsible for it may have the complacency that they have given satisfaction to the refugees but far from giving satisfaction they will prove a prolific source of discontent and bitterness. The whole question was being dealt within a manner as if the refugees from West Pakistan and Muslim evacuees from this side had changed places of their own free will and as if the refugees from the West had thus exchanged their whole lands in the West with whatever has been left by the Muslim evacuees here. But this is not the case. We never exchanged and should not be told that we are entitled only to the evacuated lands. But if the Government thinks that the refugees are only entitled to the Muslim evacuees' lands I must say that the question of levying cuts on us does not arise. The evacuated property may be insufficient to satisfy our full claims but certainly the evacuee property within the Indian Dominion is not insufficient, but as the circumstances now are, the Government is not prepared to ask those people who were anxious to create Pakistan to go over to that side and make room for the incoming refugees. I appreciate the policy of the Government for making India a secular State. But the property of those Muslims at least who were

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enthusiastic in their efforts to demand partition of the province and who made ceaseless efforts to form a Muslim state for themselves should be distributed amongst the refugees to compensate their heavy losses in the West Punjab. But if the Government does not consider this step in conformity with its policy, it does not reflect credit upon the Government that the refugees should bear the whole brunt for making India a secular State. These drastic cuts should not be applied keeping in view the heavy losses which they have sustained owing to the partition of the province. There appears to be no justification whatsoever in the graded cuts in the allotment of land but instead the Government should face boldly the moral and legal responsibility to compensate their losses in full. If this matter is referred to any Tribunal, I can say with confidence that the decision of the Government can never be upheld. It appears that the people of the East Punjab have begun to treat refugees as a separate class who are considered only liable for bearing the whole burden of partition. Otherwise why should they not subscribe to make up their losses ?

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** They are not a separate class. They are our own brethren. It is not a fact.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I am sorry it is.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** It is only lip sympathy to say that Refugees are not a separate class.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I wish you could implement what you say. But my submission is that refugees are now treated as a separate class. I am afraid that as a result of this arbitrary decision of the Government there is a feeling of discontent and bitterness amongst the refugees and they may be constrained to launch an agitation against the proposed measures. I know that if such an agitation is launched against the Government, it will be rather difficult for the Government to suppress it. The hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation would say that if he were a Minister for Law and Order he would suppress such an agitation with a strong hand. But I would say that the agitation which is based upon justice and is launched for a just cause cannot be put down so easily. I may again warn the Government that we will never agree to the graded cuts in the allotment of land and I know that it cannot perforce make us agree on this decision.

In these circumstances, the proposal to impose a cut in the allotment of lands is not proper and will not be accepted by the people. We will try to see that this scheme of Government does not materialize. What is our fault that this cut should be imposed and we should not get as much land as we owned in Pakistan ?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** Some people will have to sacrifice their share, if they wish others to be allotted as much land as they owned in the West Punjab. Is the hon. Member prepared to sacrifice his share ?

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I have no objection to it. Let others be allotted first. I can wait for some time.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the allocation of land. We were told that people belonging to the same Tehsil or District or belonging to a certain 'bradri' would be settled at the same place. We entertained the hope that we would again be able to live among our own kith and kin. This was a great consolation to us, as it would have mitigated our hardships to some extent. Now I find that the assurances given by our Ministers are not going to be honoured and it is not proposed to disturb people from the places where they were settled in the temporary allotment. I beg to submit, Sir, that the temporary allotment of land was made in a very irregular manner. In many cases the officers have settled their own men on good pieces of land.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** Are you talking of refugee officers ?

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I am not talking of refugee officers only. I am referring to those officers as well, who had refugee relatives.

Many instances of this nature were brought to the notice of the hon. Minister and he assured the public on many occasions that the Government would do justice to every body. We were told that the residents of the same place and those belonging to the same "bradri" would not be scattered at different places. Acting on these assurances, some law abiding citizens did not avail of the temporary allotment and preferred to wait till permanent allotment was made. Now when they are told that the persons settled at a certain place would not be displaced, they feel sorry at not having availed of temporary allotments.

For a long time, people were repeatedly told that to accept or offer illegal gratification was an evil thing. I find that this evil cannot be eradicated because by its latest decision the Government has proved that those who offered bribes and got land allotted, would be at an advantage, as compared to those who have been awaiting permanent allotment.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** If the hon. Member points out any place where allotment was made in this manner, the Government would get that place vacated at once. -

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** This has been the case at most of the places.

Rehabilitation Board unanimously decided that people belonging to the same place should be settled together. The Minister concerned also assured us that the Government would act in accordance with people's desire. Now, I find that the Government has arrived at a different decision.

After the meeting of the Rehabilitation Board, when I went to Batala, I met some persons, who were in illegal occupation of a certain piece of land. I told them that they would perhaps have to vacate that land. They told me that the person who had settled them on that land had assured them that nobody would ever remove them from there.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** May I know the name of the place where this thing happened ?

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I shall tell you everything.

I was submitting that those gentlemen told me that the Naib Tehsildar, who had settled them at that place had undertaken to see that nobody would remove them from there. When I came to know of the recent decision of the Government, I realized that what those gentlemen said was correct.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** Why does not the hon. Member name the place to which he is referring ? Is he afraid of the voters ?

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** I would not mind naming the place, if I were sure that the hon. Minister would accept what I said.

It is a pity that the Government has set aside the decision of the Board. It has now been said that the Deputy Commissioners do not undertake to enforce maintenance of law and order, if those in possession of lands are unsettled. In my opinion, the Deputy Commissioners and other officers are responsible for the latest decision of the Government because most of them had their own men got settled at chosen places and did not wish that those men be displaced now.

Whenever a Minister wishes to visit some village, the Deputy Commissioner takes him to the village of his own choice. When the Minister enquires from people about the allotment of land, he is told that they would like to remain where they are. How can the Ministers know the real feelings of the people, when they are taken to only those places where everything is pre-arranged by the District Officers? Hon. Members know how the Deputy Commissioners make the people do and say what they like.

As to how far the Deputy Commissioners themselves honour Government orders and directions, I may say that when there were disturbances and the province was partitioned, all the Muslim Government servants living on this side of the province left for Pakistan. The Government issued a circular that only refugees should be taken in the places thus fell vacant. On the representation of some people it was later decided that twenty five per cent of posts should be given to persons belonging to the East Punjab, twenty five percent to those with war service and the rest to the refugees. But, Sir, nobody cared for these directions and quite new hands or some of those who had two or three years service were entertained into service and the claims of those who had say twenty to twenty five years long service were conveniently and completely ignored. Of course, the Government could not look at such things with equanimity and ordered that the new men or men with short period of service who had been recruited should be asked to make room for those who were displaced permanent Government servants with long service at their back. Orders were issued by the Government that these newly appointed persons should not be confirmed till further orders and till the Government has re-examined the whole case. But the Deputy Commissioners cared a fig for this order and confirmed the people they had already appointed, and to gloss over this misdeed of theirs they offered temporary vacancies to the senior men. These senior men would raise hue and cry again when the temporary relief is withdrawn. The Government is doubtless aware of this mischief and has asked the Deputy Commissioners to set aside the confirmation of the new recruits in order to provide men with long service. But unfortunately such a thing does not appear to be possible at this stage because of legal difficulties. This I hear is the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer. It clearly shows that our Government or say the Ministers have absolutely no control over their Officers. It is not possible for our Ministry to make the officers work in accordance with their considered policy. Such a state of affairs would not be tolerated in any democratic country. I hesitate to use an expression but if I may be allowed to say so our Ministry is administration-ridden. What I mean to say is that the Ministry adopts



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the policy of the administration and they are not able to make the administration execute their policy. This is a sad commentary on their work and is a negation of the spirit of democracy. The officers appear to force the Ministry to accept their advice for otherwise according to them they would not be able to maintain law and order in the districts. This means lack of efficiency on the part of Ministers.

I am here reminded of a story which I may relate for the benefit of the House. It was perhaps in the days of Mohd. Ghauri or Mohd. Ghaznavi that an old woman went to the King and told him that somebody had killed her son in some part of the country and she wanted that justice should be done to her. The King replied that he held sway over such a big territory that it was not possible for him to trace the culprit. The old woman became indignant and bluntly said "If you could not manage the affairs of such a big country, why did you become a King?" This is exactly what I want to point out to our Ministry. If they can't manage the officers properly and are not able to rehabilitate the refugees in the right way, what right have they to sit tight on the treasury benches? We are certainly far from being satisfied with their ways of doing things.

Sir, now I wish to place before the House a very important point. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Government fully knew the area of land which the Muslim evacuees had left behind and also the extent of the resources of this Province and they also knew the area of land we had left on the other side of the border. In these circumstances why did this Government shoulder the responsibility of resettling all the Hindus and Sikhs who came from the West Punjab? Would it not have been better if the Government of India was held responsible for rehabilitating those to whom land could not be given in the East Punjab? I am sorry to say that our Government did not take any strong stand and pusillanimously submitted to whatever was dictated to it by the Government of India. This was not all. It agreed to resettle here in this small province of East Punjab, even men from Sind and Bahawalpur for the reason that at one time they had gone away to these places from the Punjab. This was an act of grave injustice on the part of our Government as Sind and Bahawalpur could by no stretch of imagination be regarded as parts of the Punjab. If people could go from the Punjab to Sind or Bahawalpur they could go from these places to other provinces as well. The responsibility regarding these people has been accepted by this Government at the cost of the refugees from the West



Punjab and I request the Government to approach and urge upon the Central Government to redress this wrong. But who is going to pay any heed to my request? I have no doubt that this Government cares a hang for our requests and feelings or for that matter our views. I ask, what is the good of inviting our views today when the scheme for rehabilitation has already been drawn up and sent to the Central Government on the 19th of this month? Now when the minds have been made up all our discussion is to fall on a barren soil and all our proposals must meet the fate of recommendations made by the Rehabilitation Board. Sir, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, the hon. Sardar Partap Singh is a thorough gentleman and is possessed of a very high sense of honesty. (*Cheers*). But in spite of it I am prepared to say that he is not in a position to feel the pinch because he is not a refugee himself. I think it would have been much better if some refugee had been appointed Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation because he would have felt what the refugees felt and would have never, like the Government which has thrown the suggestions of the Board into a waste paper basket, spurned the useful advice rendered by them.

I do not want to say anything with regard to the relief and rehabilitation of the Urban refugees, because I know that other hon. Members can throw better light on this aspect of the question. But as regards the relief given by the Government to the rural refugees, I can say that it is most inadequate and unsatisfactory. The people who really deserve have got no relief while those who flatter the officials, have succeeded in getting the taccavi loans not only once, but twice, thrice and even four times. Although the officers are fully aware of such things, yet the loans are given to the same persons again and again.

The next point that I would like to place before the House is that the refugees have been forced to pay land revenue which is three or four times the original revenue. The poor people who could not pay this excessive revenue were made to do so out of the taccavi that was advanced to them. In this way, whatever was given to them in the form of loans, was taken back from them on account of the revenue there and then. Thus, the people who preferred to stand on their own legs instead of being a burden on the Government by living in the camps, were put to a greater hardship which is most unjust. As a result of these things, crime has increased. The young men and even women belonging to good families, have been arrested by the police for committing petty thefts. Only the other day, I happened to meet a Sub-Inspector of Police in the train when I was travelling towards Karnal. The Sub-Inspector

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told me that the crime was on the increase and most of the crimes are being committed by the refugees. The young men and even women of respectable families are committing petty thefts such as of clothes etc. They are being forced to do these things out of sheer force of circumstances. This fall in moral character of the people, will lead to disastrous consequences not only for the people themselves but also for the Government. The main cause of this sad state of affairs is the inadequacy of the relief given to the refugees and the unsatisfactory manner in which this work has been done.

Another point that I would like to place before the House is regarding what is known as Quasi-Permanent Settlement of the refugees. I cannot see that any good can come out of such a quasi arrangement. Pakistan now is an established fact and it cannot be undone. As such the question of our returning to our homes does not arise. The partition of the country was done on the religious basis and there is no place now for any religion except Islam in Pakistan. Under these circumstances, the quasi-permanent system of settlement is wrong. There are people who have been forced to take to professions other than agriculture, because their lands have been taken from them. They cannot live on the land which can produce nothing but gram and groundnuts. Besides they have not the necessary implements such as ploughs etc. for agriculture purposes. Under these circumstances, they are forced to give their land on lease to other people. Over and above this helplessness of the people, we hear the talk of bringing in legislative measures for granting occupancy rights to the tenants of even one or two years standing. But the fact that the refugees are forced to lease out their land, is lost sight of. Besides, our Government has got great sympathy for the Muslims and any day they can be allowed to come back and settle on their own lands. The result would be that we shall once again be turned out of our new places. We cannot go back to our own homes from which we were turned out. If we are turned out once again, the result would be disastrous for all of us.

“हम तो डूबे हैं सनस तुम को भी ले डूवेंगे”

ਹਮ ਤੇ ਡੁਬੇ ਹੋ ਸਨਮ ਤੁਮ ਕੇ ਡੀ ਲੇ ਡੁਬੇਂਗੇ

I, therefore, submit that this word ‘quasi’ should be dropped from the phrase quasi-permanent settlement and the people should be given full rights. The House would be interested to know that Sardar Joginder Singh Mann got information privately that the crops in his land were

auctioned for 37 thousand rupees. But he was told officially that the auction took place only for 3700 rupees. If our Government, according to its professions of being a secular state calls back the Muslims, we shall once again become homeless. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that this word quasi should be dropped forthwith. It would be better to have nothing rather than to accept quasi-permanent settlement.

Lastly, I would like to submit that it is in the interest of the country that the displaced people should be settled according to their desire. Ours is a deficit Province and if restlessness and discontentment are allowed to continue, it will not be in the interests of the Government. If the people are not settled properly, the conditions here will become worse. Our country is short of food-grains. This shortage can be overcome if the Government utilises the experience of the agriculturists coming from Pakistan. If they are satisfied by the grant of as much land as they have left behind, they can certainly prove useful in increasing our food production. Even before the partition, the Sikh villagers produced double the amount of food-grains than the Muslim villagers. These people have got the experience and as such they can certainly increase production. It was due to these people that the Punjab was prosperous. As a matter of fact they were the backbone not only of the Punjab but also of the whole of India and she was better off in the matter of food-grains. It is not in the interests of the country and the Government to lower the standard of living of these people. In order to compensate them fully the Government can levy some tax on the people or on their lands. But it is the solemn duty of the Government to give us full compensation for our lands etc. We cannot be satisfied until we get compensation for every inch of land we have left behind. If that is not done, the rehabilitation of the refugees will be only a paper rehabilitation which cannot satisfy them.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)*

Sir, we have the good of the province at heart and we wish to see East Punjab in a happy state. It is the Province we won at the cost of thousands of valuable lives. At its altar we sacrificed all our property, lives and honour of our daughters, sisters and children. For its sake we shed tears and blood in plenty. This in fact is a trophy of which we are proud and our generations to come while they will remember the dark days through which we had to pass, will also feel proud that at the cost of all those sacrifices we were able to save this part of the Province. Had we not made these great sacrifices, the map of India to-day would have been quite different. In spite of all this and the hardships that

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followed we are still ignored and treated unsympathetically. Matters should not be brought to such a state that the refugees turn into Pathans. By the word 'Pathan' I mean a man, who tormented by hunger and poverty, takes to the gun as his profession and the only means of livelihood and is prepared to shoot even his brother for the sake of a loaf of bread. It would be a most unfortunate development. So we should try to solve the problem with sympathy and understanding. The refugees are ill-fed and ill-clothed. No satisfactory arrangements for the education of their children exist. Our daughters and sisters are leading a life of misery and sufferings. But it gives me pain to hear our leaders and statesmen say that they have no moral or legal obligations to compensate them. This is intolerable. Those leaders and politicians whom we always hold in high esteem, can think of fighting the Dutch for the sake of Indonesian people, can show full sympathy towards the people of Burma and China, but when it comes to the question of their own people, cannot say that this is not their moral obligation. It is the duty of whole of India and of the leaders who agreed to the partition of the country to compensate the refugees. I would request such leaders not to increase the anguish of our already broken hearts by uttering such words. Sir, I think if the Government of East Punjab intends to render any real help to the refugees it should put pressure on the Government of India who will have to take the responsibility of compensating the refugees and thus solving the problems of this Province.

In the end I beg to be forgiven if any strong word has been used during the course of my speech. What I have given vent to, are not my feelings only. They are shared by all who have passed through these trials and tribulations. It is the voice of refugees in trouble.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Demand under consideration, amendment moved :-

That the item of Rs. 3,43,48,000/- on account of Relief of Refugees be reduced by Rs. 100/--

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh has just now told you of the sufferings and hardships of the poor refugees. He has thrown light upon the problem from every aspect of the matter. I also wish to express some ideas that have occurred to me and which I have heard from time to time.

First of all I wish to point out that to-day's item for discussion is the budget demand for those uprooted and homeless people who have had to suffer a great deal during the upheaval. It is a matter of deep regret that all the hon. Ministers are away from their seats. (*Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation* : But I am here.) Nobody appears to take any keen interest in this important problem. We were, from time to time, asked to form Boards for the purpose of rendering advice to the Government in this matter. We were given assurances that the recommendations of the Advisory Board would be accepted by the Government. At one time there was an Advisory Board of seventeen members. Then its strength was raised to twenty. At first there was one Advisory Board. Then two Advisory Boards—one for urban areas and the other for rural areas, were formed. But nothing useful came out of these. The advice that these Boards gave to the Ministers was seldom cared for. The Ministers did what they liked. No interest was shown towards the refugees. Even now, as I have already pointed out, only one Minister is present in his seat. We have got two refugee Ministers on the Cabinet. Even they are not present at this time when the grievances of the refugees are being voiced.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** I am here to answer every question and share full responsibility.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** Sir, I know that the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation will answer every question, but I also know that his replies will be contrary to our advice, and no one will hear him in the Cabinet. He can only take the responsibility of giving replies and nothing more, as no proposal of his is accepted. I understand the hon. Minister has no say in the Cabinet and that is why I say that other Ministers should have been present to hear us.

My hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh has in the course of his speech made mention of the treatment that is being meted out to us and has also referred to the conditions under which we are living here in this province. As most of the hon. Members want to speak on the motion now before the House, I do not want to take much time, but I wish to make a few submissions regarding the conditions under which our refugee brethren are living at present in the province. I hope the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation will pay special attention towards my submissions, and thus do something substantial for them. If this is done, I am sure, this will not only help the refugees but will also go a long way in facilitating the work of our Government, and this will in its turn help the Central Government as well to build up a stronger India.



[Sardar Joginder Singh Mann]

I wish to submit that the hon. Finance Minister who also holds the portfolio of Industries has, in the course of his speech, said that the Government has provided adequate amount for developing industries in the province and that a major portion of this amount would be set apart for establishing small industries for the benefit of refugees from West Punjab with a view to rehabilitate them. He has further pointed out, in the course of his speech, that three industries have been set up in Sonapat, Panipat and Jagadhri. I wish to submit that there were very few Muslims in the above mentioned Tehsils. The number of non-Muslims who came to settle there was far less than the number of Muslims who evacuated from these places. It will not be out of place to mention here that many Muslims who left the districts of Central Punjab were replaced by an equal number of non-Muslims from West Punjab who came to settle there. Small industries ought to have been set up in these districts. Thereby I do not mean that these industries should not have been established in the above-mentioned tehsils. What I wish to point out is that these ought to have been set up in the districts of the Central Punjab as well so that the people in general and the refugees in particular could find an avenue to eke out a living for themselves. I cannot do without saying that we, the refugees of all categories-whether rich or poor-have been making honest endeavours and have thus succeeded in standing on our own feet, in spite of the meagre aid that we have been receiving from time to time.

Now about the "taccavi loans". Sir, it has been felt that by opening centres in tehsils in connection with the payments of 'taccavi loans', the people living in villages have had to experience great inconveniences. They complain that when they go to receive these loans they are made to sit from morning till evening and are then told to come the next day till all the villagers turn up. They are also told that the payments would be made to all the villagers at one time. Further, they are told to get with them such and such a person belonging to their respective villages, who had not turned up. As a result of this a thousand or more villagers are collected before any payment is made. The poor villagers have to waste days before getting the taccavi loan and sometimes they are not given the full amount. The officers attend to this work of making payments in the evening when they are free from the Court work. The simple villagers are then asked to impress their thumb impressions on the required documents without knowing how much amount they are to receive, so much so that they do not know whether they will receive Rs. 50/-, Rs. 60, or Rs. 100/-. The amounts of these taccavi loans are not announced before the documents are signed by them. The illiterate



and ignorant villagers receive these loans without knowing the amount sanctioned in their favour. I would request the hon. Minister to pay his special attention towards this irregularity.

Further I wish to point out that in one of the meetings of the Rehabilitation Board, a Sub-Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of my hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh, for allotment purposes. In this Committee it was unanimously agreed that the refugees from West Punjab should be rehabilitated district-wise, tehsil-wise and village-wise. It is to-day that I have come to know from the statement of my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh that the proposals of the committee were put in the cold storage and that every thing was done according to the decision arrived at by the hon. Minister. I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and the hon. Minister in particular that he had often repeated this in every nook and corner of the province that the refugees would be settled district-wise, tehsil-wise, and village-wise. On the strength of his utterances we assured our refugee brethren that there was nothing to be worried about and that things would be done to their best advantage, but now I fail to understand as to how a Minister like the hon. Sardar Partap Singh should fail to fulfil his oft-repeated promises. It seems that some unfavourable breeze has deviated him from his proper course. Possibly this wind has come from those people who have been allotted sufficient land and are quite satisfied. May I know the reasons for this overnight change in the mind of the hon. Minister? I am really constrained to remark that the high hopes which he had held out to these poor people have not been carried out. This has brought frustration and dejection in their minds for they had centred all their hopes of help on him. It seems that the hon. Minister is not moved at all by their helplessness. The hon. Minister should judge it for himself as to how this sudden change in his mind would affect these poor people. I cannot do without saying that the poor refugees, who could be pleased by something being done for them, are being displeased without any rhyme or reason.

Most of these poor refugees are very anxious to settle village-wise. I would request the Cabinet, which has not paid any attention towards our submissions regarding our village-wise and district-wise settlement, to reconsider this matter and thus do something substantial for the people who are adversely affected. Our Cabinet should consider this matter at least for the sake of those poor refugees from the West Punjab, the honour of whose daughters and sisters is not safe. Nobody has any sympathy with these poor people. The people of East Punjab do not sympathise with them at all. They have no regard for them. Under the circumstances,

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they prefer to live with their own brethren from West Punjab, village-wise, tehsil-wise and district-wise. They are anxious to live with their brethren because they want to create the feelings of love and amity in thier minds and thus live in peace and tranquility. If they are allowed to do this, I am sure, there will be remarkable improvement in their condition. By living together they will be able to cultivate their land in a better way and will thus be able to produce more and more. Moreover they will help each other at the time of need. If this is done, they will become prosperous and will thus lead a peaceful and a happy life. Through you, Sir, I would impress upon the hon. Minister to pay his special attention to this request and thus do something substantial in this direction.

Sir, I cannot help repeating what my hon. Friend has said, that if a refugee were given the portfolio of Relief and Rehabilitation, he would have better appreciated our hardships and difficulties than the hon. Sardar Partap Singh, because he would have brought to bear upon his work a sympathetic understanding, a feeling heart and personal experience. I admit that we had felt happy at the selection of Sardar Partap Singh as the Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, because we hoped that being a prominent member of the Congress Working Committee, he would be in a better position than any one else to influence the Government of India to give as much help to the refugees as possible.

Sir, there are people who have not been allotted land anywhere on account of shortage of land. I wonder why Sardar Partap Singh cannot impress upon the Congress Working Committee to allot more land somewhere else, so that they may be settled there and thus be able to earn their livelihood. Has it never occurred to him that if he could only enlist the good wishes of these 40 lakhs of uprooted people, what to speak of the Premiership of this province, he could easily find a place among the Ministers of the Government of India? (*Cheers*) If only my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh were to show this much sympathy to us, we would instal him on the 'gaddi' of Ministership, without requiring any effort on his part, when the elections are held and the new Assembly comes into being. We are not an ungrateful lot and we know how to appreciate and accord recognition to our real well-wishers and benefactors. But, Sir, our condition is no better than that of persons who were given only one pot and were all asked to eat out of it, drink out of it or to break it and share the pieces among themselves. Sir, what sympathy is being shown to us? Here our hon. Minister is jotting down points from our speeches and I am

sure by 6 O'clock, he would get up to deliver an eloquent piece of oratory. (*Laughter*).

I might submit, Sir, that instead of trying to defend the policy of the Government, the hon. Minister would do well to give serious thought to the woeful cries of the refugees whose condition is no better than what it was about a year and half back, when they crossed into Indian Territory. Even a dog is well treated by his master. We are not getting even that kind of treatment. It is my humble request to the people of East Punjab to treat us sympathetically and help us to re-settle, and not to kill us by inches. (*Interruption*).

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** He has a right to speak what he likes.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** My sister is not correct, when she says that we have a right to give vent to our feelings. This right was surrendered by us the day we voted for our ruination, in order that India may live and be happy. Who is going to concede us this right today ? It has been rightly said that man loses his worth, when he loses his home. We have lost all that we were worth. Just as an undomesticated cow or horse has no value, we are of no worth today since we are homeless. All that we can do is to implore the Government to help us and thus receive our blessings and good wishes in return. (*Interruption*). If our sisters think they can influence the Government, they must try. Perhaps they might succeed where we have failed. Sir, through you, I may also tell the hon. Sardar Partap Singh that if he is a Minister to-day, it is due to the partition. If the whole of the Punjab were to go to the Pakistan he would not have been a Minister today. But, Sir, this is just by the way. We ourselves voted in favour of partition and we thank God that a small portion of the Punjab was saved from being included in Pakistan. But for the inclusion of this portion in India where would we have found shelter and respite, and how could we have been here to narrate the story of our sufferings ? In that case, Sir, perhaps our plight would have been still worse.

In the end, Sir, I would again request the hon. Minister to do his best to persuade the Government to accept the suggestions which the Rehabilitation Board has made and implement them. If the Government does not listen to him, then he should resign. I can assure him that if he acts in this manner, a time will soon come when ministerships would go abegging so far as he is concerned. In the end, just a word of warning to the Government Sir, to solve the problem of the West Punjabis to their satisfaction is to save them from the fast spreading Communism. With these words, Sir, I give my support to this cut motion.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the account of the sufferings of the displaced and ruined people, is a heart-rending story. It surely does not give us pleasure to relate this woeful tale. Even today the recollection of those terrible events makes our hair stand on end. But we can't help narrating them since if we do not give vent to our feelings, the memory of those events clutches our hearts and begins to shake our nerves. We won't be able to forget them, until all our unfortunate, uprooted brethren are rehabilitated. We have read in history books, about great upheavals and overthrow of the rulers and the governments. We have also heard from our forefathers stories of revolutionary changes. But, Sir, it was in store for us to see with our own eyes the changing of a whole 'Yug'. We have read about the migration of six or seven lakhs of people in history books, but the whole history of the world, since its inception, does not record one single instance of about a crore of people migrating from one country to the other, under exceptionally trying circumstances, when life, honour, property and everything that one holds dear was, to say the least, unsafe and exposed to the depredations and onslaughts of 'goondas'. Sir, we refugees have not come here to our own volition. We were forced to leave our hearths and homes. There is no need to go into past history. Pakistan is an accomplished fact today. Our leaders thought that without partition they could not get freedom and so they accepted it. They thought that if the country had to be vivisected, the best policy was that the Punjab and Bengal should also be partitioned so that it might be possible to save at least some portions of those areas. However, Sir, I can say without fear of contradiction that there was not a single Hindu or Sikh in the whole of the Punjab, who was prepared to agree to the creation of Pakistan. It was we the Punjabees, who raised the loudest voice against the Muslim demand for Pakistan. (*Cheers*).

Therefore, Sir, I can say that if Pakistan came into being, it was against our wishes. When we came to know that our leaders had agreed to the creation of Pakistan, we thought that if we can save a portion of our province we must try our best and therefore, we made a demand for the partition of the Punjab. So the partition of the Punjab came about. We could never imagine that circumstances would deteriorate in the manner, in which they did after the partition and that we shall be forced to migrate, leaving everything behind. The entire responsibility for the partition of the country rests upon our leaders—upon them—who are today holding the reins of Government. But, Sir, Punjabees can today feel proud of the fact that they have made the greatest sacrifice, for the cause of India's independence. (*Cheers*).

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.*)

Sir, the Punjabis have made the greatest sacrifice for the independence of India and so long as they are not suitably rehabilitated there cannot be any peace in the country. The Government of India must bear full responsibility for this stupendous task of the rehabilitation of refugees. It should have full measure of sympathy for these refugees and should assuage their hearts and instil peace in their minds so that they may be able to forget the gruesome horrors which were perpetrated on them. The East Punjab Government cannot grapple with this gigantic problem alone with its slender resources. It should tackle this problem with all the resources at its command and should seek the assistance of the Government of India. It should press its claim for providing more financial aid for the rehabilitation work. The problem of rehabilitation has to be tackled in the following ways.

- (i) To provide shelter for every refugee family;
- (ii) providing work and gainful occupations for the refugees;
- (iii) moral or legal obligation to compensate the refugees for the property moveable and immoveable left by them in Pakistan;
- (iv) sympathetic treatment from all people as also from the Government.

Soon after the partition, when these refugees who escaped from the holocaust in the West Punjab came to this side of the province, the people extended warm sympathies to these unfortunate victims. The Government also professed their anxiety to help them. But as time passed on, the people have now begun to show little sympathy for their unfortunate brethren. The Government also feel its inability to cope with this difficult problem owing to heavy drain on its limited resources and try to divest itself of the heavy responsibility on its shoulders. We cannot dare guess the innerfeelings of the refugees in this adversity. They have displayed remarkable courage and fortitude in their untold suffering. They have left behind their hearths and homes, green and smiling fields. Those who had comfortable dwellings of their own are today passing their days in refugee camps and have entered the battle of existence afresh. They have taken to such occupations which they could never imagine, by sheer force of necessity, in order to earn their livelihood. But still they look cheerful in this hour of trial. The refugees who were fortunate enough to bring some capital with them are hardly in a better position now because their resources have shrunk with the passage of time and inflation. They are mainly depending on the reserve of clothes which they could bring along with them as they have no means to buy new clothes. If the Government of India will not try its utmost to help and speed up the work of their rehabilitation, I am afraid, their condition will go from bad to worse. So



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far as the question of rehabilitation of urban displaced persons is concerned, the Government can rehabilitate about 8 or 9 lakhs of people in the houses left by Muslim evacuees. In villages the work of finding houses for them was rather difficult as most of the houses were in dilapidated condition and could not be repaired. The four thousand newly built houses form the first fairly substantial contribution that the administration has made to relieve the housing shortage in the province. The Government has sold these houses, by auction on payment of instalments, to refugees and there are many which have not been sold till now. An hon. Member gave notice of a question sometime back as to why the remaining lot of houses could not be sold. I may inform the hon. Member that a large majority of the displaced persons have not the means to buy them even by instalments. I would say that the work of their rehabilitation is linked up with the speed with which the housing accommodation is made available to the refugees and the Government is the chief agency if not the sole agency for it. The Government should provide free houses to such refugees who have not the means or the capacity to buy. Those who have little resources at their command should be given free land so that they may build the houses to meet the needs of their families.

Moreover, the Government have been unable to impart a sense of urgency into the execution of plans of training the people in the various crafts. If the Government had succeeded in opening centres of industrial training in the very beginning to suit the needs of people, these refugees could have been usefully employed in different crafts. In refugee camps much money had been spent but no vocational training had been given to them. In the matter of allotment of factories, the Government, in order to escape the charge of favouritism, had allowed allotment to be made on tender system, which had resulted in inequitable allotment. A refugee who owned only a chakki had now joined hands with a monied person and had got a big factory under the tender scheme. This system was open to serious objection. This system was so defective that in the meeting of the committee appointed for allotment of factories it was pointed out that its adoption would not help anybody. No heed was, however, paid to that advice. It was perhaps thought, that the reputation and prestige of the Government would be affected by accepting our suggestion.

The Government has done nothing to resettle the factory-owners. It is not known whether the Government is going to help them by advancing loans or by giving them land on which they might build



factories. The Government of India agreed to lay aside ten crores of rupees to be advanced as loans to factory owners and businessmen for their resettlement. This amount is much too small. It has been decided to advance these loans through Finance Rehabilitation Corporation, but I do not know what instruction the Government of India has given to our Government in this connection. At first small loans were advanced to some individuals, but later the Government issued orders that these were to be given to Co-operative Societies only. Now, Sir, how many persons can form these societies? At last, when there was hunger-strike in Kingsway Camp, Delhi, the Government agreed to the issue of loans to individuals under certain conditions. Not more than thirty or forty lakhs of rupees have been advanced upto now and it is not known, how long it will take before the remaining amount is advanced and people are enabled to earn their livelihood.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is with respect to the property left by us in Pakistan. The only sure way of resettling us is to allot us property here, so that we may have some credit. With the credit people will be able to start shops and factories. People who could get lakhs from the banks on the security of their property cannot hope to get an advance of even one hundred rupees now. The best way of resettling displaced persons is to give them property in lieu of what they had to leave in the West Punjab. If one has property, he has credit, which is the basis of any kind of business.

There are two kinds of properties. Let us take the case of land first. At first, it was decided that the exchange of land would be done on Government level and the deficiency in land on our side would be compensated by the Pakistan Government. But it was later learnt that the Pakistan Government refused to ratify that decision. The Government of India must press the Pakistan Government to accept the agreement reached at the secretariat level and to see that it is strictly enforced. The delay in making permanent allotment of land has done great harm to the country. The greater the delay in making permanent allotment of land, the more will we suffer. No grower takes interest in the land which he knows to be not his own. If a person has to till one piece of land during one season and another in the next season, how can you expect him to take interest in his work. The result of it is already evident in the form of acute food-shortage, as my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh has said, the quasi permanent allotment will not do any good. The Government should take steps to make permanent allotment of land as early as possible. I entertain no hope of our returning to Pakistan. Those who are still cherishing such hopes will be at liberty to dispose of or give up the land

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which may be allotted to them. I shall ask my friends to give up such hopes, if any. It suits the Government to encourage such hopes, so that they may have to do less for the resettlement of displaced persons. They should tell the Government that as they have to live here, it should allot them lands permanently, as early as possible.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that I have not been able to understand the basis of the fixation of a standard acre and of imposing a cut in allotment. Why should the land in East Punjab only, be taken into consideration, for making this allotment. Is our resettlement the responsibility of the East Punjab Government alone? There are large areas of Government lands in the United Provinces and other Provinces. Why should not these Governments reclaim these lands and allot them to the Punjabis, who are admittedly the best cultivators in India. I have not been able to understand the basis of fixing a standard acre. When estimating the value of land, the Government placed the price of canal-irrigated land at four times that of un-irrigated land. In fact, there is a difference of fifty times in the produce yielded by these two types of land. In determining the value of land for the purposes of standard acre no account is taken of the most valuable crops, viz., cotton, sugar-cane and paddy. According to the proposed scheme before imposing the cut, land will be measured in terms of the standard acre. In this manner, those who had land in Montgomery would get forty eight percent and those belonging to Mianwali and Muzaffargarh sixty six percent of their holdings in Pakistan. I have not been able to understand the sense of imposing this cut. We have left fifty two lakh acres of cultivated land in Pakistan, as against forty two lakh acres of land available in the East Punjab. According to the standard acre, our abandoned land has been measured to be forty two lakh acres and that available here as twenty five lakh acres. This leaves a deficit of seventeen lakh acres of land. Sir, in these, circumstances, I would request the Government to evolve some other useful formula. But in case they cannot they should leave things as they are and allot land on the basis of actual holdings.

A very useful suggestion was made by the Rehabilitation Board and it was that Government should take steps to redeem the mortgaged land of the Muslim evacuees and distribute the same among the refugees. For this purpose we can approach the Government of India to give us a sum of about two crores of rupees. I think there is no reason why Government of India should not meet our demand as we have left very fertile lands in the West Punjab. But somehow I have apprehensions that like other

recommendations of the Board this suggestion may also not find favour with the Government.

I can make some more useful suggestions in addition to those of the Board. I say that the Shamilat lands of the Muslims which form an area of about fifty or sixty thousand acres should be given over to the refugees as it rightly belongs to them, then there are huge forests which are lying as wastelands. It is surprising that the owners of these forests do not feel the temptation of putting these lands under the plough during the present times when the prices of wheat are ranging between Rs. 14/- and Rs. 25/- those of cotton between Rs. 30/- and 35/- and those of sugarcane between Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2/- per maund. I would urge the Government to take immediate steps to acquire these lands from the owners and give us for cultivation. I assure the House that we will turn this barren land into beautiful gardens in a short space of time of a year or two. I really feel distressed when I find vast areas of jungles lying barren and waste at places like Karnal and Panipat on my way to Delhi. If arrangements are made to irrigate these lands by tube wells etc., it will not only stand the country in good stead but a considerable help will be rendered to the deserving refugees as well as who have left in the West Punjab something like 60 or 70 percent of comparatively much superior canal irrigated land against about 30 percent of irrigated land abandoned by the Muslims here.

Now Sir, I shall say a few words about the urban immovable property. The hon. Members are aware that some time ago an agreement was arrived at Karachi between India and Pakistan in this regard. This agreement to my mind is most unsatisfactory from the point of view of the refugees. I have voiced my views not only in the Urban Rehabilitation Board but I have told the leaders concerned that this agreement greatly militates against our interests. Not only that the Government is not giving any compensation to the property owners even exchange has not been freely allowed. Exchange has been made subject to so many conditions and limitations that it is more or less impossible for anybody to benefit by it. On the top of it people have been permitted to sell their property if they can. This decision is bound to prove very harmful to our people. We have left five or even ten times more property than the Muslims have left here and there is nobody in Pakistan who may be in a position to pay the right prices of our property. This means that the property of the Hindus and Sikhs when sold will not bring even a fraction of its value. The case will be just the opposite with the Muslim property here. The Hindus being monied people are in a position to buy and would be prepared to pay much more than the actual values. As a matter of fact our leaders should have asked for a much wider circle of

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exchange instead of sale. It is really a pity that exchange is not permitted in all parts of India and is confined to four districts of U P., the East Punjab including States and Delhi. The agreement as it stands will do no good to any refugee firstly because the extent of the area in which exchange is permissible is too limited and secondly because there are obstacles which are not easy to get over for effecting an exchange. The greatest difficulty in the way of the person concerned is a clearance certificate from the Income Tax Officer and this certificate has to be obtained irrespective of the fact whether one is an income tax payer or not. Moreover we know if persons who have been asked by the Pakistan authorities to pay one hundred times more than their dues by way of income tax. This clearly shows that in these circumstances nobody may be able to get his property exchanged. I have had a talk with some people at the helm of affairs on this subject and they say that it is not something material because it affects a very small number of men i.e., those who pay income tax. But I tell them that it is not so. A clearance certificate has to be produced by any and everybody who wishes to exchange property whether he be an income tax payer or not. Moreover if the Pakistan authorities insist in some cases that the tax has not been paid for the last ten years or so it will be very difficult to satisfy them. I would therefore request the Government that it should take steps to remove these difficulties.

Sir, it is very strange that we will be required to pay stamp fee etc. for making these transactions. It is something cruel to demand such fees from the refugees who are not to gain any profits but have been forced by misfortune to exchange their property. I am aware that our Dominion Government did not favour this idea and it was due to the Pakistan Government's desire that this provision was laid down. But I would suggest that our Government should not yield to Pakistan in this matter.

Thirdly I want to impress upon the Government the urgency of applying the Evacuee Property Act to the whole of India. The East Punjab Government should urge upon the Government of India to do so. The Muslims who have gone over to Pakistan from other parts of India, are managing their properties such as land, shops and houses through their managers and they are getting their income as usual. On the other hand the Pakistan Government's Evacuee Property Act is applicable to the whole of Pakistan. As such we cannot get any income out of our property left anywhere in Pakistan. In our own country, there is no all-India legislation regarding the evacuee property and therefore the Muslims, even though they have left, are getting the income of their

properties. Whereas the Pakistan Government has taken such steps, I see no reason why the same legislation should not be applicable to the whole of India. Only the other day, I read in the Civil and Military Gazette, a resolution passed by the Muslim refugees that the exchange of property should be done on the basis of all-India and all-Pakistan. As a matter of fact, this is in the interests of the refugees of both the countries. It is, therefore, the duty of our Government to urge upon the Government of India to apply the Evacuee Property Act to the whole of India.

Next I come to the question of the fixation of rent of the evacuee property which is under the consideration of the Government. I hear that the Pakistan Government has decided to fix the rent of our property left in Pakistan at ten percent of the original rent i. e. instead of 300 rupees, the original rent of a house, it will be fixed at only thirty rupees. Besides, house tax and other taxes will also be deducted from the rent thus fixed. In this way, we shall get nothing out of our property left in Pakistan. Justice demands that the rents of our houses should not be fixed so low. At the most they can be reduced by ten percent on account of the taxes. But it is wholly unjust to cut them down only to the ten percent of the original rents. On the other hand, our own Government says that it will continue charging full rent of the evacuee property. Our factories whose rent could not be less than 25 thousand rupees, have been rented out for five and six thousand rupees only by the Pakistan Government while the Government of East Punjab has charged rent of a factory whose entire price is not more than that sum. These considerations of justice and high principles can have no effect on the Pakistan Government and we shall have to pay dearly on account of that. The Pakistan Government can say that the property has been rented out through tender and property owners are entitled to the full amount of rent. Thus our Government will have to pay the whole amount of the rent of evacuee property to the Pakistan Government. Thus our Government, at present, is labouring under the misconception that it will not be made to pay the whole of the amount of rent, collected by it. I, therefore, submit that the rent of evacuee property in the two countries should be fixed on some reciprocal basis. If that is not done, our interests will be jeopardised.

Lastly, I want to submit that we should be given full compensation for our property left in Pakistan. I cannot understand why the Government of India hesitates to take full responsibility of our losses. After only a month of our arrival in Indian Union, the Government of India invited us to send them our claims of property left in Pakistan. It is after spending lakhs of rupees on railway-fares and fees etc., that the



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claims were sent in by the refugees. The Government also incurred a heavy expenditure by appointing registrars and other staff for this purpose. Was all this only a joke or a child's play? Where are those claims now? After the lapse of one or two years those papers are not to be seen anywhere. Perhaps they have gone into the waste-paper basket. If the Government felt that no compensation was to be given where was the necessity of putting the people to unnecessary trouble. I do not know whether the Government is legally bound to give us compensation for losses in Pakistan, but I am sure that it is its moral responsibility that it should do so. Besides justice demands that the Government should take this responsibility.

In the end, I would like to say that, if the Government wants that there should not be any trouble in the country and peace and order should be maintained, the refugees should be suitably rehabilitated and given the full compensation for their losses in Pakistan. We, too, want that there should be no trouble in the country. But the people must be satisfied. As a matter of fact, I want that India and Pakistan should forget injuries done to each other in the past and be on friendly terms in future. This will be in the interests of the refugees of both the countries. If our Government should not take full responsibility of our losses, peace and order can in no way, be maintained in the country. The Government, if disposed, can find out ways and means to give us compensation. It can levy some rehabilitation tax for this purpose or it can issue bonds to us. If even that is not done, there is likely to be a breach of peace, in spite of our desire not to do so. I, therefore, submit that our Government should impress upon the Government of India to issue bonds or to devise some other ways to give us full compensation for our losses.

During the days of last war, there exploded a ship in the Bombay harbour. The Government paid full compensation for the losses incurred by the people of Bombay. I see no reason why full compensation should not be given to us now. Besides, the value of the property in the Indian Dominion has gone up four times on account of our arrival and the income of the people of this side has greatly increased. As such, it is incumbent on the people of the Indian Union, to take upon themselves the responsibility of our resettlement. Justice and fairplay demand that. If the Government should levy some tax or issue bonds for this purpose, the people should not mind it. The Government of India should willingly settle the people who are sitting at the border of the country and are ever ready to shed their blood for protecting its freedom. Their



difficulties should be removed and they should be satisfied in every way. If that is not done, there can be no peace in the country inspite of our best wishes to maintain it.

**Sant Narinder Singh** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): God almighty has given us freedom after a slavery of centuries. Everyone contributed his humble lot for the emancipation of the motherland. Like others Rai Sikhs also made sacrifices and bore sufferings for the sake of independence. After partition they crossed the border and came to East Punjab. The authorities have decided to settle them near the border (Riverean tract) because, in the first place being brave they could be relied upon with the defence of the border against incursions from Pakistan side and secondly if need arose they could also take offensive. I met the S. D. O., Fazilka and told him that thirty thousand Sikhs had already lost their lives at Muzaffrabad in Kashmir. They are again being settled near the border. Do they want us to be butchered like that? I admit that my clan is known for bravery and boldness. We are descendants of Rajputs and inherit an ancient culture. We take meat specially bone and have enough of blood running in our veins. Having come from Rajputana we never lost our traditions of chivalry. Our ancestors were a hardy people. They came down to Punjab, felled forests on the river banks and got settled there. We have been living on the borders like brave men. I was told that these very reasons weighed with the Government when they decided to settle Rai Sikhs near the border. It was the intention of the Government to settle brave people there so that they may prove a wall of defence against any aggression from outside. I welcomed the decision because it was in conformity with our ancestral traditions. At a time when Jat Sikhs, Hindu Kambojs and others were running away from the border and were rushing towards Delhi, I advised Rai Sikhs to stand firm. They had doubts in their minds about their future. They thought that being an M. L. A., I was advising them against their interests. It was with a great difficulty that I persuaded them to stay on. I roused their patriotic sentiments. If the country required our services at the border we must stand fast. If need be, we should lay down our lives in defence of the motherland. (*Cheers*). I had a talk with the then Deputy Commissioner Mr. Vishnu Bhagwan. He told me that the Rai Sikhs were asked by the Government to settle near the border because of two reasons. Firstly, they are brave people and can fearlessly go on with their daily work. Secondly they have been living on the river banks and are used to that sort of life. The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Home and Revenue, told us

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that Hindu Kambos will be settled along with the border for five miles after the Rai Sikhs, while for the first five miles Rai Sikhs will settle. They assured us of the supply of adequate arms and proper training for defence. We also had a discussion with Sardar Isher Singh Majhail, the then Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. He too gave us all sorts of assurances for help. He told us that the Rai Sikhs who were to serve as a wall of defence would always be given help and assistance by the Government of East Punjab. One day in August 1948 some raiders came from Pakistan with stenguns and rifles. They attacked our village and drove away sixty heads of cattle. In this raid my brother Jagat Singh was killed and Vir Singh one of my relatives was also killed. Another raid took place in a village nearby. The people got panicky but I tried to assure them that our Government was very strong and we should face the ordeals with a brave heart and have faith in God, the Almighty. Even if we die for the sake of our country it doesn't matter. But my wards could not allay their fears. Even my son asked me to leave the place. I told them all to go away but I must remain there and die if need be. Somehow they got encouraged and they stuck to their hearths and homes. But everywhere I was assailed with one question. Why should we remain here when no proprietary rights are to be bestowed upon the tenants? If we are not to be given any rights of ownership upon the lands we plough, why not go to some better and safer place. Assurances were given to us by Lt. Col. Gurbachan Singh of II Punjab Regiment, Deputy Superintendent of Police Fazilka, Ajaib Singh and Tehsildar of Mahal Fazilka that the Government was ready to listen to our grievances. We were told that a report had been submitted to higher authorities recommending proprietary rights to the tenants. Rai Sikhs were told that if they deposited land revenue in Government treasuries they will be granted these rights. The poor refugees deposited whatever little money they had and did what they were asked to do.

Soon after we were settled in the villages lying on the border, the Hindus started migrating from that place because there were rumours that Muslims from the Pakistan were preparing to attack our villages. The owners of the villages of our present residence were "Wattu Rajputs", who had decades back become Muslim-converts. Many people of our clan were working as tenants under these Muslim-converts for a century and a half. These people of our clan now became the landlords. There was a rumour afoot that we would be attacked by the Muslims across the border. After a month or so a person belonging to my clan, a Rai

Sikh, was arrested at Ferozepur in connection with a certain crime. Soon after two Muslims were arrested there. While conducting investigations they gave out that they had planned to attack me three times but their attempts were frustrated because of the strong guard stationed near the border. In one of these attacks they succeeded in killing my brother. Later on they learnt that it was my brother and not me, whom they had killed. What I wish to point out is this that Government should make it a point to afford all possible facilities to refugees who have settled on the border. If the tenants from West Punjab who have already registered their names, are not given any land, I am sure, their condition will deteriorate. These tenants from West Punjab should be assured that they would not be ousted from their lands which they have already occupied. It will not be out of place to mention here that the refugee tenants in West Punjab have been allotted pieces of lands from the Crownlands and the Wastelands, and they have brought these lands under plough to the best of their capacity. Similar steps should be taken by the Government in settling the tenants from West Punjab in this Province. It has been noticed that big landlords from West Punjab who happen to be very rich, have succeeded in securing large tracts of land. It is said that capitalists should be done away with, but I personally feel that some encouragement should be given to capitalists so that they may afford help in providing employment, food and clothing to the masses. A few big landlords from West Punjab have succeeded in procuring sufficient land through their influence for themselves. They can well afford to employ labour on their land. On the other hand the poor tenants from West Punjab whose ancestral occupation is cultivation, have not been able to procure any land for themselves. If this state of affairs continues, I am sure, their condition will become much worse which will result in their unrest and dissatisfaction,

In this post-partitioned Province of East Punjab owing to the fertility of the soil, wheat, cotton and other foodgrains can be grown in abundance but unfortunately the Zamindars of this Province are not as advanced in the art of cultivation as the tenants from the West Punjab. It would be in the fitness of things to grant lands to these experienced tenants who will thus help the Government in solving the food problem which is causing headaches to them. In this connection I

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had convened a Conference on 13th February 1949 at Fazilka. In this conference our slogan was to impress upon the people to produce more and more with a view to meeting the present food shortage in the country in general and in the Province in particular. Here I am reminded of the following verse which served as our slogan :—

ਪਰੋ ਦੋ ਝਕ ਲਝੀ ਮੇਂ ਝਨ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੋਂ ਐਰ ਕਿਸਾਨੋਂ ਕੋ  
ਬਚਾ ਲੋ ਕਿਸੀ ਰੈ ਮੇਂ ਬਹਨੇ ਸੇ ਝਨ ਅਨਮੋਲ ਦਾਨੋਂ ਕੋ ।

ਪਰੋ ਦੋ ਝਿਕ ਲਝੀ ਮੇਂ ਝਿਨ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰੋਂ ਐਰ ਕਿਸਾਨੋਂ ਕੋ  
ਬਚਾ ਲੋ ਕਿਸੀ ਰੈ ਮੇਂ ਬਹਨੇ ਸੇ ਝਿਨ ਅਨਮੋਲ ਦਾਨੋਂ ਕੋ

My hon. Friend Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann has in the course of his speech impressed upon the Government to settle refugees from the West Punjab in this Province, district, tehsil and villagewise. So far as we are concerned, we have no objection to such a plan. But here I cannot do without saying this that it will only help the rich landlords who can wield influence and bring pressure upon the Government and not the poor and helpless tenants.

What I wish to point out is this that after the unfortunate partition of our Province we were settled in a village near the border which we improved through our own efforts. If the Government were to accept the suggestion of my hon. Friend Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann, I wonder what will happen to us.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** I have made this suggestion simply in their interest and not in my own. It is immaterial if it is not agreeable to them.

**Sant Narindar Singh :** I have no objection. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. No interruptions please.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** Sir, he is misleading.

**Sant Narindar Singh :** Sir, I wish to submit that poor and petty refugee tenants from West Punjab have after putting in great efforts, succeeded in getting small pieces of land. They have improved their land through their hard labour and it would be unjust and unreasonable to rehabilitate them somewhere else and this I think amounts to another displacement.

I would once again request the Government to show special favour towards "Rai Sikhs" and "Lubana Sikhs" who live on the border. They have preferred to live at such a risky place simply with a view to defend their country.

In the end I wish to urge upon the Government to pay special heed towards the poor tenants from West Punjab who are about 3 or 4 lakhs in number. Their present miserable plight deserves a sympathetic and just treatment at the hands of the Government. Any encouragement on the part of the Government, will certainly be instrumental in ameliorating their hard-lot and this will ensure peace, plenty and prosperity in the country. These are the three things which constitute the basis of a Secular State.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang** Parliamentary Secretary (*Punjabi*):  
Sir, I would first like to recite a few Punjabi verses, which have a bearing on the refugee problem.

ਜਿਊਂ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਕਾਓਂ ਵਿਚ ਬੇਲਿਆਂ ਨ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ।  
ਕੁਦਨੋਂ ਕਦੇ ਨ ਡਕ ਲਏ ਅਸਵਾਰਾਂ ਘੋਏ ।  
ਵਹਿਣ ਕਦੇ ਦਰਯਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਨ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਮੋਏ ।  
ਜੇ ਬਨ੍ਹ ਕ੍ਰਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਨਾ ਲਏ ਓਨਾ ਮਨ ਤਰੋਏ ।  
ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਫਕੀ ਹਵਾ ਆਕਾਸ਼ ਦੀ ਬਾਜਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੋਏ ।  
ਜੇ ਫੜ ਪਿੰਜਰੇ ਵਿਚ ਪਾ ਲਿਆ ਓਹਨਾਂ ਮਾਰੇ ਲੋਹਏ ।  
ਜੇ ਸੀਖਾਂ ਟੁਟ ਨ ਸਕਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਓਹਨਾ ਖੰਬ ਤਰੋਏ ।  
ਹੋ ਜਾਣ ਗਰੀਬ ਜੇ ਸੂਰਮੇਂ ਦਿਨ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਥੋਏ ।

ਜਿਉਂ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਕਣੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਬੇਲਿਆਂ ਨਾਂ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ।  
ਕੁਦਣੇਂ ਕਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਡਕ ਲਏ ਅਸਵਾਰਾਂ ਘੋਏ ।  
ਵਹਿਣ ਕਦੇ ਦਰਯਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਮੋਏ ।  
ਜੇ ਬਨ੍ਹ ਕ੍ਰਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਲਾ ਲਏ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਭੰਨ ਤਰੋਏ ।  
ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਫੱਕੀ ਹਵਾ ਅਕਾਸ਼ ਦੀ ਬਾਜਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੋਏ ।  
ਜੇ ਫੜ ਪਿੰਜਰੇ ਵਿਚ ਪਾ ਲਿਆ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਮਾਰੇ ਲੋਹੇ ।  
ਜੇ ਸੀਖਾਂ ਟੁਟ ਨਾਂ ਸੱਕੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਖੰਬ ਤਰੋਏ ।  
ਹੋ ਜਾਣ ਗਰੀਬ ਜੇ ਸੂਰਮੇਂ ਦਿਨ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਥੋਏ ।



[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

Sir, the people, the problem of whose rehabilitation we are discussing to-day can rightly be called pioneers of the Punjab in the field of colonization. It was due to their labours, that waste and barren lands were turned into green and smiling fields. It was they who turned the jungles of Lyallpur into land, so fertile and productive, that it came to be known as the 'granary of India'. I have come to know that things there have now changed, though it is not yet two years since we migrated from there. I have read in the Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore that this district, which was known as the granary of India, is now a deficit district. What I want to emphasize is that if Lyallpur had come to be known as the granary of India, it was not primarily because the land was exceptionally fertile, but because the people cultivating it were made of a sterner stuff.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** This stuff has become damp now.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** I can assure you, Sir, that the apprehension of my hon. Friend is not correct. The people who have come from Lyallpur and Sangla Hill are not made of such stuff, as may be easily damped.

So, Sir, what I want to submit is that land by itself is not of much value. What matters most is the technique of handling it and the brawn behind the plough. As the Prime Minister of our country Pandit Nehru said sometime back, in reality what matters most is our man power and that we should never allow it to deteriorate. Therefore, Sir, the problem of rehabilitation of refugees should be given top priority.

As my able Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has pointed out, there are three big problems in this province viz., Rehabilitation, food and the maintenance of law and order. I feel, Sir, that all the three are inter-linked and that one cannot be solved without solving the other. In my opinion, Sir, the last two problems revolve round the first and it would not be possible to solve them without solving the first i.e., the problem of rehabilitation of refugees. So long as the refugees are not properly rehabilitated, it would neither be possible to maintain law and order, nor would it be possible to make the 'Grow More Food' campaign a success.

I am just now reminded of the reply given by a 'Jangli' of our district to a Commissioner who asked him that if the people of his tribe were so poor, how they managed to pay the revenue. The reply given by the 'Jangli' was characteristic of the tribe and was as follows. "Sir, we are no doubt very poor but we are members of a well-unit 'beradari'. So if we find that we cannot pay the revenue, we borrow from our relatives.



If we are involved in some other trouble, we sell our ornaments. If even then we are unable to pay the dues, we sell our bullocks and carry on our work by bullocks, lent to us by our friends. If even then, we find that we cannot discharge our liabilities we are left with no other alternative but to commit thefts and robberies—and thus we manage to pay the Government its dues”.

Sir, what I mean to say is that if refugees are not rehabilitated, and are not provided any source of earning their livelihood, by the sheer force of circumstances, they shall be left with no other alternative but to take to robbery. Already they are being blamed for 70 percent of the cases of theft. If they are not rehabilitated soon, it is just possible that the maintenance of law and order might become a very serious and difficult problem.

Now the question before us is that the land left by Muslims in East Punjab is much less than the land left by us in West Punjab. The difference is to the tune of 17 or 18 lakhs of acres. Then we have to face the housing problem. The number of houses left by Muslims is very small. Those left by them in villages are mostly in a delapidated condition and unfit for human habitation. The resources of our Government are already limited. What should then be done to solve the land and housing problems? The remedy that I am going to suggest is simple and straight. Who is responsible for the straits in which these people, I mean the refugees, find themselves today? Surely, they had not done anything to deserve this fate. Why were they driven out of their hearths and homes? To my mind, their only fault was that they, believing the words of their leaders, that they would never agree to the creation of Pakistan and their repeated assurances to this effect, and for the sake of ‘Akhand Hindustan’ for several years continued to annoy the Muslims by vehemently opposing their demand for the creation of Pakistan. The result of our constant opposition to the desires of the Muslims was that we created bitterness and enmity in their minds against us and our relations with them became so strained that after the partition, it became impossible for us to live in Pakistan. Sir, if Indians living in Kabul or Iran are asked to quit and they come to our Government with a request to rehabilitate them, the Government of India might with some justification refuse to take the responsibility. But, Sir, how can it deny the responsibility of rehabilitating these people who were driven out from their houses, because they had all along been opposing the creation of Pakistan for the sake of India’s integrity. If the Government of India denies it, it will be failing in its duty.

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

Sir, lakhs of people have migrated from Europe to America. Even though the American Government has nothing to do with the causes of their migration, it is spending lakhs of Dollars, to settle them in America. It is strange that the Government of India is not prepared to take legal and moral responsibility for our rehabilitation. We are told that India is going to be a secular State, in which there will be equality of treatment and everyone will have his due. How is it then, that the Muslims who before the partition, used to shout slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' and 'Hindustan Murdabad' are living here in comfort, while the people who have all along been shouting 'Hindustan Zindabad' are rotting and dying of starvation, after having left their all in Pakistan ?

Sir, I think that the Government of India must take three or four steps, which I am just going to suggest, if they are sincere in their desire to rehabilitate our uprooted brethren. Now that the facts and figures have been collected and it has become clear that the land left by Muslims is less by 18 lakhs of acres, it is but proper that our Government should demand this balance from the Pakistan Government and if they refuse, they should be forthwith given an ultimatum. If, however, in view of the international situation, the Government of India is not prepared to take this step, it should tell those Muslims, who were staunch Leaguers before the partition, that, now that they have achieved Pakistan, and their brethren have also usurped our spacious houses, grand buildings and everything that we possessed, it is time that they left India, and lived in the State governed according to the principles which are so dear to them. We have left behind vast and valuable properties and my friend Chanana Sahib has left factories and workshops. These Muslims should be told to leave India to live a life of prosperity in the country of their liking and under their own Government. They should be told that we have left behind beautiful towns like Lahore, Lyallpur, and Gujranwala for them to settle, and have given them a separate country to live according to their cultural traditions.

Sir, our Hindu and Sikh brethren who are rotting, are not guilty of any crime. Why should they bear all sufferings alone ? Just because they made the greatest sacrifice for the cause of independence. Why should not people living in the whole of India, including the Muslims be made to pay a tax—so that receipts from it may be spent on their rehabilitation ? I would urge upon the Government, Sir, to communicate this suggestion to the Government of India. Secondly, I would suggest that the Crown Waste Lands be allotted to the refugees. If no compensation for the losses they have suffered, is given to them. I am afraid the

Government will have to face numerous problems, and will have to spend huge amounts for the maintenance of law and order. To give one instance, if the people living on the frontiers are not re-settled, on land, they will remain a menace to law and order. I would suggest, Sir, that the money that the Government will have to spend for the maintenance of law and order, should better be distributed amongst the refugees, as compensation for their losses.

Sir, the second suggestion that I want to make is with regard to the rural rehabilitation scheme. So far as the aspect of valuation of land is concerned, I think the method of assessing value of the agricultural land is neither fair nor just. I had been a member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Board.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think that has been discussed by Sardar Ujjal Singh.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** Sir, I want to draw your attention to the aspect of the valuation scheme suggested by the Advisory Board. If you examine the salient features of the scheme of valuation of land, you will find, Sir, that a strange formula has been adopted for assessing the value of the land. If the produce of a particular land is one maund, its value will be assessed at the rate of annas two per maund and in case the produce shows an increasing trend its value will be assessed at lower rates. The scheme formulated by the Government appears to be quite strange. I have tried to understand it, but I fail to understand the implications of the formula for assessing the value of the land. (*An hon. Member :* Such a formula might have been evolved out by some shrewd "Lala").

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, my hon. Friend during the course of his speech has remarked that if the Government do not show utmost consideration to the "Rai Sikhs" in the matter of their rehabilitation, this clan will either commit thefts in the Pakistan area or spread discontent in this province. I think he should withdraw these words.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** He never said so.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** Sir, any principle which aims at fixing higher value of land on the basis of increased production is understandable. For instance if one killa of land yields 4 maunds of wheat and another piece of land measuring one killa yields 8 maunds, the value of the latter land is bound to be double on account of the greater produce that it yields as the cost of production remains almost the same. There

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

cannot be general acceptance to the principle which stipulates that the value of land will not increase in proportion to the production. It will show that it represents a marked departure from the accepted standards and do not help much in assessing the merits of the scheme. The fundamental criteria in such matters should be the potentialities of the land in question. Such a scheme would surely affect the zamindars of Lyallpur district where the land was most fertile. As a matter of fact, according to an equitable formula, the value of such lands would have stood at a higher figure. It is a strange paradox that the most inferior type of lands have been assessed at a perceptible higher value. The uniform rate has been applied to the detriment of landholders. If any landholder had owned 5,000 ghumaons of land yielding a minimum standard of output, which covers hardly the cost of production, its value has been assessed at a higher rate. I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members to the fact that Lala Jiwan Lal, who is a member of the Federal Public Service Commission, was willing to dispose of his land measuring two or three thousand ghumaons at ridiculously low rate of eight annas per acre as the land was barren and yielded nothing.

Besides, according to this scheme, graded cuts have to be applied to the total area of land and the percentage of cut will be higher in the case of big landlords. With these drastic cuts only a few zamindars will be able to eke out subsistence from land and others would be reduced to abject straits. If it was absolutely necessary to levy cuts, the landholders should be duly compensated for the cut in the land by the East Punjab Government or the East Punjab Government should persuade the Government of India either to pay compensation or get compensation from the Pakistan Government. The general landholders' reaction to this scheme has been one of disappointment as they have not received adequate relief. Tillers are the backbone of the province and it is therefore necessary that something should be done to keep up their standard of living by giving the compensation for the land left by them in the West Punjab. If this land owning class is not properly rehabilitated, I feel that stout and sturdy Punjabis will be lost.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth** (Amritsar City, General, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, after the partition of the province there was a great influx of refugees who had been uprooted from the West Punjab. The influx was greater at Amritsar owing to its close proximity to the borders. The residents of Amritsar accorded warm reception to these unfortunate victims who had left behind their hearths and homes, and rendered all possible assistance to them. Unfortunately, the workers of Sangh and other young element

had indulged in destroying the Muslim property even after the Muslims had left for Pakistan. I along with other Congress workers pleaded them that they should not destroy the Muslim property but they had not the high sense to protect it for the rehabilitation of the refugees from the West Punjab. The result was that the city of Amritsar lay in heaps of ruins, and the hundred of thousands of refugees have not been able to get housing accommodation for themselves.

As it was hot weather, lakhs of refugees who came from the West Punjab, took shelter in burnt houses or with their relatives. Those who could find no shelter kept lying on the roadside. Rehabilitation Board was set up and Resettlement Officers were appointed to help these people but still there are a large number of persons who have not been able to find any accommodation. Now, Sir, after one and a half years, these persons, who lost almost everything in Pakistan, are being asked to pay rents for the places occupied by them. The fixation of these rents, amounting to five, ten or fifteen rupees per month, is based on the assessment of property made long ago. I have come across refugee women who lost their husbands and children and also their parents in Pakistan. These persons have not a penny to pay the rents demanded from them. In a number of cases, such women and children came to me and I took them to the officers for requesting them to either remit the rent or reduce it, in view of their helpless condition. The difficulty in this connection is this that the local officers can do nothing unless the Rehabilitation Board or the Minister concerned issues an order that deserving persons should be given the necessary relief. I shall therefore request the hon. Minister concerned to pay due regard to the difficulties of those persons who are living in burnt houses and possess nothing to pay as rent. The Government should devise means for rendering help in such cases.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this, that before partition, Amritsar used to be a thriving trade centre and the price of property was very high. Now, Sir, its trade has completely ruined and the prices of property have gone down. The rents which are now being fixed are based on the assessment made before the partition. I request that rents should be calculated on the basis of the present price of property, which is one-fourth or one-eighth of what it used to be formerly.

Another thing, which I wish to submit is that the Urban Rehabilitation Board has almost completed its work. (*Voices* Where has it completed its work) ?



**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** It appears that my hon. Friends have not gone through the lists issued by the Government, showing the number of houses and shops allotted to different persons. In my opinion, that Department has almost finished its work. I suggest that it should be wound up now.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know if the hon. Member is speaking on the motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes, the hon. Member is speaking on the motion.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** I was submitting that this Department should be disbanded, so that its unnecessary burden on the exchequer of the province may be removed. If there is still some work to be done, it can be entrusted to the rent-collecting agency of the Government. The money thus saved could be spent for the benefit of refugees.

Another submission which I wish to make is with regard to Harijans. I am a member of the Resettlement Board and the Local Resettlement Committee and can say on the basis of my experience that cloth has not been properly distributed among Harijans. Accompanied by a Panchayat Officer, I have visited six villages for distributing cloth but I know that there are a large number of Harijans residing at various places, who have not been able to get it. They have neither lands nor houses. They do not get food to eat or clothes to wear. Immediate steps should be taken to save these people. If nothing is done for them in time, they are sure to become criminals. These people have no means of living. It is true that those Harijans who had to abandon land in the West Punjab, have been allotted a plot here or there, but something should be done for those, who were tenants. I wished to bring their difficulties to the notice of the Government, so that it might help them.

Then, Sir, there are some refugees who are very old and who have nobody to look after them. The Government should start Ashrams, where these men may live. A circular should be issued to all the district officers to collect all the old refugees living on roadsides and to put them in such Ashrams. Similarly some arrangement should be made for the relief of orphaned children, so that when they grow to be men, they may be able to serve their motherland. I hope that the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation will pay heed to my suggestion and will do something for these poor (*bechare*) people.

**Mr. Speaker :** I hope the word 'bechara' includes 'bechari' also.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh** (Ex. Member West Punjab Assembly  
6 P. M. representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved  
seat.) (*Punjabi*).



Sir, I am very grateful to you for after all you have been kind enough to give me some time to place my views before this House.

ਆਬ ਆਬ ਕਰ ਮੋਇਓ ਬਚਿਅ! ਫਾਰਸੀਆਂ ਘਰ ਗਾਲੇ ।

ਜੇ ਤੂੰ ਮੰਗਦਾ ਪਨੀ ਬਚਿਯਾ ਭਰ ਭਰ ਦੇਂਦੀ ਪਿਆਲੇ ।

ਆਬ ਆਬ ਕਰ ਸੋਯੋਂ ਬਚਿਯਾ ਫਾਰਿਸਤ੍ਰਾਂ ਘਰ ਗਾਲੇ ।

ਜੇ ਤੂੰ ਮੰਗਦਾ ਪਾਨੀ ਬਚਿਯਾ ਮਰ ਮਰ ਦੇਂਦੀ ਪਿਆਲੇ ।

Sir, my hon. Friends have criticised the rehabilitation work of the Government a very good deal but only God knows why no effect has been produced. To me it appears that the criticism is perhaps not sincere and therefore like the persian words of the son of an ignorant mother not understood by our Government. At any rate I think that the criticism which has been levelled against the Government does not come from the heart of the hon. Members. I would like my hon. Friends to act up to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi who was an incarnation of morality and goodness. When they become frank and straight forward like him they would be able "to make the impossible possible". This is the spirit which is a great desideratum of our times and without which we cannot accomplish the uphill and impossible task of rehabilitation. I have no doubt in my mind that the work of Rehabilitation Department will be successful only when the Officers of Government invite the true spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and develop a high moral sense.

Sir, I am firmly of the opinion that if this Government wants to render any useful service to the Province it should consider itself to be an interim Government. The reason is that a constitutionally appointed Minister works not for the sake of work but to please his Friends and followers and this in fact is hampering the attempt at resettling and rehabilitating the refugees. A Government should not appoint Ministers on grounds of following in the House. Following should not be considered a qualification. To my mind it is rather a disqualification especially in these days when our morality has reached zero point.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the hon. Member dealing with the rehabilitation of hon. Ministers or the refugees ?

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Sir, I am only making some suggestions for improving the work of rehabilitation. I am of the opinion that our Ministry should contain men who are really the gems of our province. It

[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

is these gems who acting on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi can work wonders and make the impossible possible. They can solve for us our difficult problems like the rehabilitation and keep the communist menace away.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** Who are those gems ?

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Those hon. Friends who have no following but are men of solid work. I am here reminded of a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi which tells us how to become pure gems of our society. Mahatmaji says:

Speech that counts and never fails. Speech without the backing of experience based on action will back chastity and refinement. I would ask you to curb your tongue and make use of your hands and feet for the service of the community. After you have done so for a few years you will speak the speech that counts and never fails.

Sir, after hearing the speech of my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh on General Administration the other day; I have begun to believe that he is a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi. I consider him to be a first rate Congress-man of sterling character and am proud of paying my homage to him. I assure him that I shall always be guided by his advice as I am earnestly after evolving myself. I cannot adequately explain to the House the miserable plight I was in when I came to India after partition. I had absolutely no money with me, nor had I any clothes to wear. I had donned a tornout dirty Gandhi cap and I remember that somebody addressed me as "You Topi wala" with great disdain. My hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth saw me in this condition and he knows the whole story. However I was not disheartened. Swami Viveka Nand came to my help with his words :

Intense activity is necessary. We should always work.  
and

An ideal man is he who in the midst of the greatest silence and solitude finds the intensest activity and in the midst of intensest activity finds the silence and the solitude of the desert.

I at once became active and taking some other friends with me continued to help the poor and the sick in carrying from Amritsar Railway Station to the hospital for full one month. One day when I had been relieved from this work I reached Gurdaspur. I came across some refugee friends who told me that a big bungalow has been allotted to me. I told them that I was not used to living in bungalows in Pakistan and would not like the idea of living in one now. I had made up my mind to settle in a

village and therefore took my family to Mirpura village near Gurdaspur city. But unfortunately I did not get a good house there. During the first night of my arrival at the village as it rained heavily, the roof of the house collapsed and my wife sustained serious injuries. So at the persuasion of a friend I shifted to Gurdaspur who advised me to occupy the bungalow that had been allotted to me. At first I was afraid lest I should have to pay an exorbitant rent but when no other accommodation was available. I resorted to the bungalow. The idea of a poor man like myself living in a bungalow could not be tolerated by an hon. Friend who is now present in this House and he asked me to vacate the bungalow as it belonged to an Indian requisitioned by the Government and therefore I had to pay an exorbitant rent. He suggested me to occupy a Muslim bungalow as by doing so I had to pay a little sum of money as a rent for Muslim Property. I burst into tears. I thought in my mind that if I had no money to pay the fault was not mine. A man who could not pay Rs. 20/- or Rs. 30/- had no right to live in a decent house. What is God. Confidence is God. I stuck to the idea of living in the same bungalow requisitioned by the Government and paid the heavy rent amounting to Rs. 100/- for five months at a time when I was in a position to pay the arrears.

The rent of that bungalow was twenty rupees a month while that of the houses of Muslim evacuees was nothing in those days.

I have no hesitation in saying that the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise did not appoint the Harijan Welfare Officers on the basis of merit. On the other hand, he did so to oblige his own men though they did not stand in the market. I tried to act according to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and tried to make impossible possible?

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the hon. Member discussing the question of refugees?

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** In spite of the fact, that the Harijan Welfare Officers were appointed on the grounds of personal considerations, I have cooperated with them and they have praise for me and my work.

I would now like to disprove what the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise said on the floor of the House with regard to the qualifications of the Harijan Welfare Officers.

**Mr. Speaker :** There shall be no reflection on any hon. Member.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** There used to be a clerk in the High Court at the time when I was also employed there. He had passed his B. A. Examination after passing the Giani Examination. We used to tell him that he had the degree of Hongkong University. Similarly the persons appointed as Welfare Officers have got only bogus degrees. One of them is a Sidhant Shastri. I think, such persons have no market value. A welfare officer who knows Hindi or Gurmukhi only cannot discharge the duties of rehabilitations of the Harijan refugees as office work of the East Punjab Government is in Urdu or English only. We, ourselves, cannot stand in the market, on the basis of merit. That is why we are trying to do something in the field of morality. I again submit that the appointments of Harijan Welfare Officers have been made on the basis of personal considerations rather than on the basis of merit and qualifications. The result is that these Officers have not been able to do any useful work.

As regards my speech at Batala, the hon. Premier has stated that I persuaded the Harijan refugees to continue to live there, for the purpose of getting their votes in the next elections. I assure the House that I never wanted the refugees to stay at Batala for my sake. In fact, I gave a lecture in the camp and told the refugees that they should look to their own interests and go and settle in any district such as Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, or Jullundur according to their own convenience. It was, however my duty to request them to stay, but at the same time, I expressly told them that they were free to go anywhere they liked. The Government can make an enquiry through some Tribunal into this incident.

**Mr. Speaker :—**Now this is not included in the rehabilitation grant.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :—**The second thing that I would like to place before the House is that I have been working according to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. In this connection, I am reminded of an incident. Once we were collecting certain subscription from the people, a woman came crying before us. She told us that she was occupying a house along with another woman called Mrs. Sahai. The fact was that the house was jointly allotted to Mrs. Sahai and the wife of one Dr. Isher Dass. Mrs. Sahai put the other woman to trouble. We were told by her that her husband was known to Dr. Sahib and he used to take meals with them. It was due to this acquaintance that she wanted the whole house for herself.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Member to speak to the motion. Too much about himself is not proper ?

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** The rehabilitation of our refugees cannot be properly done, without honesty of purpose. Everybody according

to our hon. Minister for Home and Revenue, whether he is a constable or a Patwari, should do his duty. We have also been doing our own duty. The problem of rehabilitation cannot be solved unless favouritism and nepotism are done away with. In this respect, the Harijan refugees have suffered the most. In the work of evacuation as well as the resettlement, the officials have helped their own men. The police too has played an important part in the work of rehabilitation. Whenever the Harijan refugees sought the help of the police, they were given abuses instead of help. Hindus and Sikhs have got all the help they desired ; but the poor Harijan refugees have got only abuses from the police.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please wind up.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** I would like to submit, Sir, that, if we are not settled properly the Government will not be doing its duty. I will finish my speech with a quotation from Shri Vivekananda.

These words were uttered by him at a meeting held on the 5th November, 1896, in London.

“Strength is medicine of the world, strength is the medicine of disease, which the poor must have when tyrannised over by the rich. Strength is medicine which the ignorant must have when oppressed by the learned. Strength is medicine which the sinners must have, when tyrannised over by other sinners.”

Now, Sir, permit me to conclude my speech by reciting a few couplets before the House.

ਮੁੜੇ ਅਬ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਮੇਂ ਠੋਕਰੇਂ ਖਾਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।  
 ਮੈਂ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਰੇ ਤਮਨਾਂ ਹੂੰ ਕਿ ਮਰ ਜਾਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।  
 ਤੁਮਾਰੀ ਬਜ਼ਮ ਮੇਂ ਆ ਕਰ ਹਮੇਂ ਜਾਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।  
 ਹਵਾਸੇ ਹੋਸ਼ ਖੋ ਕਰ ਦਿਲਕੋ ਸਮਝਾਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।  
 ਜਿਹ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਅਪਨੀ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਹੈ ਹਮੀਂ ਤੋ ਇਸਕੋ ਮਾਲਿਕ ਹੈਂ ।  
 ਕਿਸੀ ਬੇਗਾਨੇ ਘਰ ਮੇਂ ਕੋਈ ਬੇਗਾਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।  
 ਤੇਰੇ ਮਸਤੋਂ ਕੋ ਸਾਕੀ ਸ਼ੋਰੇ ਮੈਹਸ਼ਰ ਕਿਆ ਉਠਾਏਗਾ ।  
 ਜਿਹ ਵੇਹ ਹੈਂ ਜਿਸਕੋ ਪੀ ਕਰ ਹੋਸ਼ ਮੇਂ ਆਨਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਤਾ ।



[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

मुझे अब जिन्दगी में ठोकरें खाना नहीं आता।  
मैं मजबूरे तमन्ना हूँ कि मर जाना नहीं आता॥  
तुम्हारी बज्रम में आकर हमें जाना नहीं आता।  
हवासो होश खोकर दिलको समझाना नहीं आता॥  
यह दुनिया अपनी दुनिया है हमीं तो इसके मालिक हैं।  
किसी बेगाने घर में कोई बेगाना नहीं आता॥  
तेरे मसतों को साक्री शोरे महशर क्या उठाएगा।  
यह वह हैं जिनको पीकर होश में आना नहीं आता॥

#### DURBAR SAHIB INCIDENT

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, yesterday I referred to Durbar Sahib incident and today I want to make a detailed statement in that connection. It is as follows :—

The Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar, had decided to observe the programme fixed for the 'Protest' day in their office, situated close to Sri Durbar Sahib, Amritsar, on 2.3.49. In pursuance of this decision, they had started an 'Akhand Path' (continuous recitation of the Garanth Sahib) on the 28th with the intention of finishing the 'path' on the morning of 2nd March to synchronise its termination with the commencement of 'Protest' proceedings. Since the Durbar Sahib Committee apprehended danger to the premises under their control from the Akali Dal crowd that was likely to assemble there on the 'Protest' day, they met on the evening of 28.2.49 and decided to import a number of villagers to have a reserve of men to deal with any eventualities that might arise. These men, who numbered between 150 and 200, were, on arrival, located in the office of the Durbar Sahib Committee and the Baradari.

A congregation, estimated to number between eight to ten thousand, collected at the S. A. Dal Office to go through the programme fixed for the 'Protest' day on 2.3.49. At about 10 A. M., all of them proceeded to Sri Akal Takhat to offer 'ardas' there. They offered 'karah parshad' there and asked the Garanthi to recite 'ardas' for them; but the Garanthi refused to do so on the ground that it was not in accordance with accepted custom for him to recite 'ardas' on such occasions. This refusal upset the S. A. Dal crowd. One of the S. A. Dal congregation ultimately recited the 'ardas' in the open place in front of Sri Akal Takhat and offered 'karah parshad' again, which was accepted by the Garanthi. The



'akhand path' at the S. A. Dal office was due to terminate shortly after and the crowd, therefore, returned there. This 'path' terminated at about 11 A. M. and the recitation of 'Shabads' started there. It might be mentioned here that the S. A. Dal authorities had fixed a microphone at their office and it had been working throughout the progress of the 'Akhand Path'.

At about 11 A. M. information was passed on to D. S. P., C. I. D., Amritsar, by a member of the Durbar Sahib Committee that the S. A. Dal crowd were shouting provocative slogans and abusing them, as a result of which their men were getting uncontrollable and that they should not be held responsible by the authorities if serious trouble occurred on account of it. Upon this, the A. D. M., D. S. P. City and D. S. P., C. I. D., went to the spot. The City Magistrate was already there with a contingent of police. They did not see anything at the spot to corroborate the information that had been passed on to them. After watching the situation for a few minutes, the A.D.M, D.S.P., C.I.D., and the Duty Magistrate went to the office of the Darbar Sahib Committee where they started discussing the situation with some prominent persons of Darbar Sahib Management. While the A. D. M. and the D. S. P., C. I. D. were discussing the situation with Jathedar Sohan Singh Jalalusman, some noise was heard from outside. On this, Sohan Singh Jalalusman and others got up to go outside and also asked their men to go out to deal with the situation. On going out, they saw a small crowd in the Manji Sahib area shouting anti-Nagoke slogans and objecting to the collection of outsiders, whom they described as bad characters and 'goondas' in the holy precincts of the Darbar Sahib. The men of the Nagoke group also shouted counter-slogans and an exchange of brickbats followed. In the meantime, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police arrived at the spot and persuaded the men of the party incharge of management to withdraw to the office of the Durbar Sahib Committee. Since the S. A. Dal crowd continued to be unruly, they were tear-gassed and dispersed. Some police officers had also been injured during the exchange of brickbats between the two parties. As soon as the effect of tear-gas disappeared, the S. A. Dal crowd collected again and protested against having been tear-gassed without any fault of theirs. They also stated that action was not being taken against the other people who had imported outsiders. The Brigadier, who had arrived there in the meantime with troops on the request of the Deputy Commissioner, persuaded the crowd to disperse peacefully and undertook to deal with the situation. The crowd agreed to do so; but wanted to recite their 'ardas' again at Sri Akal Takhat before dispersing. The crowd then proceeded from there to Sri Akal Takhat. They were fairly boisterous

[Premier]

and unruly by this time. The Deputy Commissioner accompanied the crowd to Sri Akal Takhat and, on the insistence of the crowd, persuaded Akal Takhat Granthi to recite 'ardas' praying for the release of Master Tara Singh as demanded by the crowd.

The crowd dispersed but remained unruly and were rough with the Superintendent of Police and severely man-handled Jathedar Mohan Singh whom they followed and tried to break open the door of the room where he took shelter. The part of crowd which came back to Manji Sahib got out of control again and the Superintendent of Police had to resort to tear-gas again.

Two bombs were alleged to have been thrown at the Police party at this time by the crowd. Later enquiries disclosed they were nothing more than crackers. It was about 5 p.m. by this time and there was utter confusion every where in the Durbar Sahib premises. Jathedar Mohan Singh who proceeded from Durbar Sahib to Akal Takhat before the liquidation of the main part of the mob, was attacked again on his arrival at Akal Takhat by a part of the crowd which was still lingering on by the Prakarma of Durbar Sahib. It was at the request of Durbar Sahib Committee that the Deputy Commissioner got a contingent of Police, and later on troops to go in support of Police, and clear the Durbar Sahib premises of unruly elements.

This did not take long to do and was finished by about 5-30 p.m. Since there was apprehension of two groups coming to clash with each other, the Deputy Commissioner had to impose a curfew on the town.

It is incorrect to say that Police fired at the crowd to disperse them or they went bare-headed and with shoes on into Durbar Sahib. The Government has the greatest respect and holds the holy Durbar Sahib in great esteem. It was with grave concern that they had to adopt these measures in the larger interest of peace and security.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that Jathedar Mohan Singh fired several rounds on the congregation ?

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th March 1949*

# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 24th March 1949.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### RAILWAY OR OTHER CONVEYANCE FARE TO TEHSIL CHAPRASI ON TOUR

**\*622. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any railway or other conveyance fare is allowed to the tehsil chaprasi when they tour in the tehsil area on official duty; if not, the reasons for the same;
- (b) whether passes are issued to these chaprasi as are issued by the the railway police department to the police constables ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** (Sardar Narotam Singh):

- (a) Single railway fare is allowed to the tehsil chaprasi while they tour in the tehsil area on official duty, in addition to the fixed travelling allowance.
- (b) No.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Sir, may I know whether I would be permitted to have interpellations on my previous question which was replied to at the fag end of the Question hour yesterday and consequently supplementary questions could not be asked ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Since I have passed on to the next question I cannot allow him to ask supplementary questions on the previous question.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang): Besides, I have not brought the papers about that question as I thought it had been finished.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** With regard to answer to Question No. 622, will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please let me know the amount of fixed allowance given to the peons ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Narotam Singh): Rupees 4/- per mensem for the peons and Rs. 5/- p.m. for Jamadars.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** May I know whether Government intends to make any changes in the rules regarding the T.A. given to the peons?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is a request for action.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the Government has considered the desirability of granting T. A. to the peons over and above the fixed allowance for this purpose, if the tours of the officers whom they have to accompany, increase inordinately?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Yes, the matter was considered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** What was the result of that deliberation?

**Minister:** That the decision already arrived at in this connection was correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** What is that decision?

**Minister:** The same which the Parliamentary Secretary has read out in reply to the main question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether any complaints have been made to the Government by the peons about the inadequacy of the fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 4/- per mensem?

**Minister:** There might have been some complaints in this regard, but the Government considers the T. A. fixed for peons adequate and proper.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether the Government gave careful thought to the matter before arriving at this decision?

**Minister:** Yes, the point raised by the hon. Member was fully kept in view at the time of decision.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether Government intend to amend or cancel the rules governing the T. A. of the peons?

**Minister:** Government do not feel any necessity for this.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Do not the Government realise and think it proper in view of the soaring prices and acute dearness that whereas officers have been given certain facilities, poor peons should also receive T. A. at a bit liberal rates?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a suggestion.

**Minister :** I may tell the hon. Member that while the dearness allowance to the peons has been enhanced, there has been no corresponding increase in the T. A. of the officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the officers have been given certain concessions in the matter of T. A. ?

**Minister :** No; on the contrary, a reduction has been effected in the travelling allowance of the highly paid officers.

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#### HALTING ALLOWANCE TO REVENUE AND CANAL PATWARIS

**\*623. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Revenue Patwaris are allowed any halting allowance during their stay at the Tehsil or District headquarters in connection with the official work, if so, the rates per day; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether canal patwaris are allowed any halting allowances during their stay at the Zilladari or the main canal office headquarters for official work; if not, the reasons for the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** (a) and (b). Yes, Re. 1/- per day, provided the place of halt is outside the radius of five miles from the patwaris' headquarters.

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#### HALTING ALLOWANCE TO TEHSIL CHAPPRASIS ACCOMPANYING THEIR OFFICERS

**\*624. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether the Tehsil Chapprasis accompanying their officers are entitled to any halting allowance while the officers are on tour; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** No halting allowance is admissible to tehsil peons, accompanying officers while on tours as the peons are in receipt of fixed travelling allowance.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know the reasons why no halting allowance is paid to the tehsil peons while accompanying officers on tour ?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that in the main reply.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will he please repeat ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** No, sir.

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### THE BHAKRA DAM AND THE NANGAL PROJECT

**\*768. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the time by which the Bhakra Dam and the Nangal Projects are expected to be completed;
- (b) whether Government have under consideration the Lift irrigation scheme to supply water from Bhakra Canal to the District Ambala ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) By 1955-56, but it depends upon the machinery and materials being available in time.
- (b) Water for a gross area of one lakh acres has been provisionally reserved for Lift irrigation—part of this area will lie in Ambala District.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when was the construction work of Bhakra Dam and Nangal Project started and when did the present Government take it into its own hands ?

**Minister :** After the partition of the province of the Punjab.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the work had already been in operation before partition and this Government only kept it going ?

**Minister :** No, that is not a fact. Before partition only paper schemes existed in this regard. Of course some katcha quarters for labour had been constructed before, but they were so rotten that they collapsed during the rains. In fact this Government undertook the main construction work.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how long will it take to complete the construction of the Bhakra Dam ?

**Minister :** I have already answered this query in part (a) of the main question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Part (a) of the main question concerns two things, namely, the construction of Dam and the Nangal Project. I want to know the time by which the completion of the former is expected ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member wants me to repeat the reply, then I would say that it is expected to be completed by 1955-56.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Then may I know when will the digging of canals be started and by which time it would be completed ?

**Minister :** Both the works, namely, the construction of Bhakra Dam and the digging of canals have been undertaken side by side. This is so because the completion of the Dam will be of no avail if there are no canals to draw the water. So the work has been synchronized in such a manner, that the digging of canals is finished with the completion of the Dam so that the latter may be fully utilised.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I know by which time are we expected, to get water in our fields ?

**Minister :** After the completion of the Bhakra Dam.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** By the time the scheme is completed, will the distribution of water be started by the Government or will all the water that is expected to be supplied by the scheme be made available ?

**Minister :** When the project is complete, not only will the masonry and engineering works be completed but the utilization scheme will also be completed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the whole amount of water be made available ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to that.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** The hon. Minister himself does not know the details.

**Minister :** Then why put me any question ?

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#### ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE GOVERNMENT

**\*769. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area in acres of the land acquired by the Government in each district of the East Punjab a year or two before the partition;
- (b) the area in acres of the land acquired by Government in each district of East Punjab after the partition;

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

- (c) the place where the lands are acquired together with the purpose for which acquired in each case referred to in parts (a) and (b) above;
- (d) the dates on which such acquisitions were made by the Government;
- (e) the number of cases together with the mention of places and owners names where compensations in money or otherwise have been paid for the above mentioned acquired lands;
- (f) whether there are cases in which no compensations have been paid as yet; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (g) the cases where the owners are still paying the land revenue although the land has been acquired by the Government since long; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether Government have received complaints to the effect that where acquisition of land is made by the Government, compensation is paid after a very long time and usually the owners are dispossessed of the land just after its survey i.e. even before the acquisition procedure is actually completed and sometimes the owners are molested and harassed by the Government people especially by the employees of the Public Works Department on the pretext of very trivial matters;
- (i) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such incidents ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** It is regretted that the time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have any complaints been received by the Government where lands have been acquired but no compensations have been paid and the owners are still paying land revenue ?

**Minister :** There were some complaints and payments have been expedited. If, however, the hon. Member has any specific complaint in view, it can be looked into.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are there any cases where possession of the lands have been taken by the Government but no compensation has been paid ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member has repeated his question. I will not repeat my reply.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** When land has been acquired, how long does it take to pay the compensation ?

**Minister :** No time limit is specified. Efforts are made that no delay should occur.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the delay of one or two years considered to be usual or unusual by the Government ?

**Minister :** Unusual.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Generally after what time are the compensations paid ?

**Minister :** Sometimes after one month.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** When a notification for the acquisition of land is issued and land is not acquired but the land revenue is continued to be paid by the owner, does it not entitle him legally to retain that land ?

**Minister :** No.

#### TREATMENT OF DETENUS IN JAILS

**\*830. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister' for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he received a letter dated 1st February 1949 from S. Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M.L.A., regarding the treatment of the detenus in Jails;
- (b) whether he will place a copy of this letter on the table of the House;
- (c) whether the letter referred to above has received any consideration at the hands of the Government; if so, with what results ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes, dated the 31st January 1949 and not 1st February 1949.
- (b) A copy is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>
- (c) First Part.....Yes.

Second part—Diet allowance of A and B class detenus had already been increased from Rs. 2/- and Rs. 1/8/- to Rs. 2/4/- and Rs. 1/12/- per day respectively and instructions have been issued not to make any deduction therefrom for cooking or for supply of articles.

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the library.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether R. S. S. detenus and prisoners are classified as ordinary prisoners ?

**Minister :** Under-trials, detenus and convicted prisoners are treated in accordance with the categories to which they belong.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Are the convicted R. S. S. prisoners treated like the convicted political prisoners ?

**Minister :** Convicted R. S. S. prisoners are treated like other convicted prisoners.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What then is the difference between R. S. S. prisoners and other prisoners ? How are the R. S. S. prisoners classified ?

**Minister :** Those who are considered to be entitled to a better treatment by the courts of law or on their own representations are placed in a higher class.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Are the R. S. S. prisoners treated like political prisoners or ordinary prisoners ?

**Premier :** Communal prisoners are not political prisoners.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** How many R. S. S. prisoners have been given a higher class ?

**Minister :** I require notice for that. The hon. Member will appreciate my position if I do not hazard a guess.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Is there even a single prisoner who has been given a higher class ?

**Minister :** Yes, there are many.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Government take into consideration this fact that the R. S. S. prisoners are ideological prisoners and not ordinary convict prisoners and therefore they should be treated as ideological prisoners ?

**Minister :** There is no separate class for ideological prisoners.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Minister aware that in no other province are the R. S. S. prisoners treated like those who have been convicted for moral turpitude ?

**Minister :** I never said that the R. S. S. prisoners have been convicted for moral turpitude.



**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Premier said so.

**Minister :** He never said so. Perhaps, the hon. Member did not understand what he said.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the Government aware that in Bihar and United Provinces, R. S. S. prisoners are treated like political prisoners ?

**Minister :** I am not aware.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the Government consider such cases where prisoners are entitled to better treatment but have not been placed in a higher class by the law courts ?

**Minister :** Certainly, if representations are made.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Do I take it that members of the R. S. S. have been convicted for the simple reason that they were members of R. S. S. ?

**Minister :** No person has been convicted for the simple reason that he was a member of the R. S. S. unless specific charges were proved that he had offended against some provision of the law.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Are Akali prisoners also treated as ordinary prisoners or are they being treated as political prisoners ?

**Minister :** There are no convicted Akali prisoners as yet in the East Punjab.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Have no arrests been made after the arrest of Master Tara Singh ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member has not followed what I said. I repeat that there are no convicted Akali prisoners as yet in the province. A mere arrest does not mean conviction.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** How are the arrested persons being treated ?

**Minister :** According to their status.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** In 1942 after the Deoli Camp prisoners there was no classification in the case of political prisoners. Why has this classification been introduced now ?

**Minister :** Classification has been introduced to meet the requirements of the circumstances and Government considers it quite fair.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** What are those circumstances ?

**Minister :** It is a matter of opinion.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it the policy of the Government to treat all the political prisoners alike and place them in one class ?

**Premier :** It is done according to the rules.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** During the British regime there was no classifications amongst the political prisoners, will the hon. Premier please state why and under what circumstances has the classification been considered necessary ?

**Premier :** Britishers could say about their regime and so far as we are concerned, we thought it necessary and did it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Why was it thought necessary ?

**Premier :** The circumstances required it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is any family allowance given to the detenus ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Has the Government received any representations from the families of the R. S. S. detenus in the Hissar jail that they should be given better class ?

**Minister :** I do not remember. If the hon. Member gives any specific instance, it will be looked into.

**Shri Virendra :** Do the same rules apply to the M. L. As or can they expect any better treatment ? (*Laughter*).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the difference between the treatment meted out to the congress detenus by the previous Government and the treatment given to the detenus now by the present Government ?

**Minister :** I do not know what treatment was given by the previous Government to the detenus then but this much I can say that the treatment given to the detenus now is fair.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the rules regarding detenus are the same now, as they were before the partition ?

**Minister :** Treatment meted out to the detenus now is better.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In what respect ? I want to know whether the old rules have been changed ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member takes the trouble of comparing the old rules with the new rules he will get the reply to his question.

**Shri Virendra :** Because the hon. Minister has no experience of jail life could it not be possible for him to arrange to spend a few days in a jail and get the first hand knowledge himself ? (*Laughter*).

**Minister :** The time for going to jails is gone. Now is the time to work.

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#### RAIDS OF PAKISTAN NATIONALS IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

**\*833 Sant Narinder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of raids made by Pakistan nationals in Ferozepore district from 15.8.47 to 31.1.49;
- (b) the damage caused to life and property of the Indian nationals as a result thereof;
- (c) the compensation, if any, granted to the victims of these raids;
- (d) if answer to (c) is in the negative, whether the Government proposes to grant any relief to the victims of these raids ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 76
- (b) Human lives 15. Cattle 891 (approximate value of cattle Rs. 1,30,000)
- (c) Nil.
- (d) It is not possible.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I ask from the hon. Minister.....

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, I bring it to your notice that the hon. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is again taking the law in his own hands and asking supplementary questions without being permitted by the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker :** For this very reason, I do not call on the hon. Member Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to put the supplementary questions. The hon. Member may ask his question.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister kindly state whether the Government have any desire to give any compensation to the relations of those persons who have been killed in these raids ?

**Minister :** The question can be considered but the Government has not decided it as a policy to give compensation.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** When was the first raid on the Indian territory made on Ferozepur side?

**Minister :** The raids started soon after the partition.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** When was the first national of India killed in the raids from across the border ?

**Minister :** I do not think it is material. If the hon. Member has got any point to make he should straightaway tell me.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What I wanted to drive at is that it was about 2 years ago when the raids were started involving loss of life and property but the Government has not been able to decide about the compensation to be given to the persons affected.

**Minister :** I would request the hon. Member not to press that point further because under the ordinary law as it stands, it is very difficult for any Government to commit itself to grant compensation in such cases but individual cases involving discharge of duty and display of valour on such occasions can of course be considered.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is any special allowance given to the Military Police or Civil Police people posted on the border ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is about compensation to the victims and not about any special allowance to the Police.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do Government accept the responsibility of giving compensation to those persons who die in the raids and suffer losses on the border ?

**Minister :** Government does everything in its power to prevent such raids and render all possible assistance to the people living near the border but to accept as principle that in every case in which a raid takes place and loss occurs, Government is responsible to make good that loss, is a responsibility which it is very difficult for any Government to undertake.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have the Government received any applications for help from the victims of these border raids ?

**Minister :** No specific requests on that score have been received. But even in ordinary cases where citizens come into conflict with elements of lawlessness, some cases are known where the Government comes to their help in one form or another. No special rules have been framed for this sort of thing but special consideration was being shown to those border raids as distinct from ordinary cases of lawlessness.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If the Government considers these cases, has it a desire to do something for the sufferers ?

**Minister :** We might consider but this problem as such is decreasing to a very great extent and I can definitely say that the number of border raids has considerably decreased.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the hon. Minister give us an idea of the special precautions because of which the border raids have decreased ?

**Premier :** It does not arise out of the present question and also we are not prepared to discuss on the floor of the House what steps we have taken to combat these raids.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, is it for the Leader of the House to decide whether the question arises out of the reply or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is his reply to the question put to him.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it a fact that before May 31, 1948 there was no police post at village 'Bundala' tahsil Patti and in a raid from across the border loss of rupees one lac was suffered by the villagers ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice of a question, I will find out the information for him and he will get the reply.

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#### QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMANDANTS OF REFUGEE CAMPS

**\*764. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names and addresses together with qualifications of all the paid Commandants and Assistant Commandants of all the refugee camps in the East Punjab;
- (b) the time by which the Government is likely to rehabilitate each and every refugee and disband all these camps;



[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to complete the permanent allotment of land to the refugees.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>

*Rural Refugees*

- (b) (i) It will be possible to assess the time required to disband refugee camps altogether after quasi-permanent allotment has taken place.

*Urban Refugees*

- (ii) For the housing of urban refugees whom it would not be possible to accommodate in evacuee houses and the 12 model townships already established a comprehensive proposal has gone up to the Government of India for their approval. It envisages the establishment of a town for 150,000 refugees at the site of the new Capital, towns of 40,000 each at Faridabad, Bahadargarh and Sonapat and a number of smaller colonies. Arrangements for providing work to the settlers of these towns in colonies will also be made. It is proposed to develop these settlements and sell plots, leaving construction to the buyers of the plots, though in suitable cases, building loans will be advanced. Provided building materials are available it should be possible to complete this work in the next 2 years.
- (iii) So far as the provision of loan for starting industry, business etc, is concerned, work will in all probability be completed in 1949-50. During the same period much of the work of vocational training of urban refugees will also be completed.
- (c) It is expected that the bulk of the work in connection with quasi-permanent allotment will have been completed by the end of May 1949.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know whether any plans for the new towns have been made ?

**Minister :** Yes, they have been. But they are with the Central Government and we are waiting for the sanction.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** When is the foundation stone of the first new town expected to be laid ?

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the library.

**Minister :** As I have already stated, the plans are with the Central Government and sanction is being awaited.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I just want to know the time by which the foundation stone of the new town will be laid ?

**Minister :** As soon as the sanction is received from the Government of India.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Sir, I am sure, the Government must have some estimate of the time on their records by which they expect to start the work.

**Minister :** As a matter of fact we approached the Central Government to apprise us the time by which the sanction would be available so that we could take the work in hand. But their reply was that the needful would be done very shortly.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is the hon. Minister satisfied that within the next two years it would be possible to lay the foundation stone of the new town ?

**Minister :** Much earlier than that.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will it be within six months ?

**Minister :** Even before that.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether any assurance was held out by the Central Government that sanction would be accorded to the plans when submitted ?

**Minister :** How can sanction be accorded unless plans are prepared and submitted.

**Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of Harijan refugees in the camps stranded in East Punjab ?

**Minister :** This does not arise out of this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please state the time by which the final scheme of the Government envisages the disbandment of the refugee camps ?

**Minister :** The intention of the Government is to disband them within nine months.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how many times have the Government expressed such intentions before and fixed dead lines ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member should know that this cannot be done with one stroke of the pen. It must take some time before the refugee camps are disbanded.

**Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that the Harijan refugees are in an overwhelming majority in the refugee camps ?

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister please define the term Permanent Allotment ?

**Minister :** I shall define it tomorrow during the course of speech on the demand for Relief and Rehabilitation.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know whether the permanent allotment will be made on the same lines on which the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar did ? He disbanded the refugee camp and threw the inmates on the road-side or wherever they could manage to find shelter.

**Minister :** The hon. Lady Member may rest assured that nothing of the kind will be allowed to take place.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of securing the co-operation of public bodies in the matter of rehabilitation of refugees and the disbandment of refugee camps ?

**Minister :** Government will avail of as much co-operation as it will require.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know to what extent cooperation it wanted so far, and how much did it receive from the public bodies, particularly the Congress organisation ?

**Minister :** This is a thing which cannot be measured in maunds and seers. (*Laughter*).

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#### LOSSES IN REFUGEE CAMPS ON ACCOUNT OF RAINS

**\*765. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total losses of life and property occurred in each of the Refugee Camps of East Punjab on account of the recent heavy rains attended with hail storms;
- (b) the measures proposed to be adopted by the Government to safeguard against such losses during the rains and after in future;

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) There have been no reports of loss of life in any of the camps in East Punjab due directly to the recent winter rains and hail storm. Tents were blown off and damaged in the Ambala camps.
- (b) It is realised that canvas is an inadequate shelter against inclement weather, and till we can re-settle all the camp dwelling refugees the best that can be done to render relief in the face of 'acts of God' will continue to be done.

**Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister please let me know whether Government will compensate the refugees living in the Ambala and other camps, for the losses they have sustained there ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member should know it better. It is not possible.

#### CLAIMS REGARDING MOVEABLE PROPERTY

**\*676. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the way as to how Government is considering to meet the claims concerning the moveable property filed by the Hindu and Sikh refugees ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** Moveable property of the Hindu and Sikh evacuees recovered by the Custodian, West Punjab is to be sold under his orders and the proceeds credited to their accounts. They can also obtain permits for property which is still unsold. It has been agreed in the Inter-Dominion discussions held at Lahore in March, 1948 that personal belongings of evacuees seized during evacuation for which receipts have been given by officials should be restored by both Dominions on presentation of the receipts. Property may be claimed by individual owners or by Government agency on production of receipts issued by Government officials. When personal belongings cannot be restored in conformity with any Inter-Dominion Agreement compensation will be paid for them directly to the owners or the Government agency acting on their behalf. Accordingly, at the instance of the Chief Secretary the Department invited claims and so far 542 claims have been received.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when the Government will start giving compensation to the refugees ?

**Minister :** I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood the main question. Which Government is to undertake the compensation ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know when do the Government intend to compensate those people in money or in any other form, who have left their moveables in Pakistan and for which they have put in their claims ?

**Minister :** Who is to undertake that ?

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** May I know what arrangement the Government intend to make for restoration of merchandise of those Hindus and Sikhs who had left it in Pakistan ?

**Minister :** If they possess any receipts, they are covered under the Inter-Dominion agreement. But if they have lost them, then the Custodian of Property in the West Punjab will, after the sale of that merchandise, credit the proceeds to the accounts of those Hindus and Sikhs.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** May I know what is the position of the Government with regard to the acceptance of liability for the controlled commodities which the people held in their possession, but had to leave in Pakistan, particularly in view of the fact that both the East Punjab and the West Punjab Governments had distributed among themselves the liabilities and assets at the time of partition ?

**Minister :** An Inter-dominion Committee was constituted on which representatives of both the Governments were taken to scrutinise the third party claims. If it approves of any claims, the payment is assured.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** That is true. But what I want to know is the attitude of this Government in the matter of restoration of controlled commodities to the owners who under the Control Order of the Government could not move them anywhere ?

**Minister :** The East Punjab Government is not solely responsible for such liabilities. It is responsible jointly with the West Punjab Government irrespective of the fact that the claim is due to a Hindu, Sikh or a Muslim. Such claims are referred for scrutiny to that Committee which has been set up by the two Governments. It is difficult for this Government to undertake the entire responsibility.

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#### RABI AND KHARIF CROPS OF 1948

**\*767. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints to the effect that most of the refugees got grain and grass from



the Rabi and Kharif crops of the year 1948 i.e. of much less value than the land revenue realised from them;

- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) No such complaints have come to notice of the Government.  
(b) The question does not arise.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Have the Government received any complaints to the effect that three times the land revenue had been demanded from the refugees in spite of the fact that they were not in a position to pay anything ?

**Minister :** This does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have any complaints been received by the Government that the amount of land revenue which the refugees were required to pay was more than the produce ?

**Minister :** Such complaints were made in the beginning but when land revenue was reduced no complaint was received.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know why is any land revenue being charged from those persons who have left much greater areas of land in Pakistan than they have been given here ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. This is a much wider issue.

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#### OCCUPATION OF MUSLIM HOUSES BY NON-REFUGEES

**\*800. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that many muslim houses are occupied by the non-refugees in this province;  
(b) what steps the Government has taken or propose to take to eject such persons ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** (a) & (b). It is not within the knowledge of the Government that "many" Muslim houses are occupied by non-refugees. In March 1948, instructions were issued to D. Cs. that all unauthorised occupiers of evacuee houses should be ejected therefrom. These instructions have been repeated from time to time and from the reports received from the districts, it appears that they have been

(18) 20 EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [24th March, 1949]

[Minister for Relief & Rehabilitation]

effectively carried out. It may, however, be added that according to a decision of the provincial Cabinet evacuee houses can be and have actually been allotted to essential Government servants regardless of whether they are refugees or non-refugees. If the hon. Member brings any specific cases of unauthorised occupation to the notice of Government, action to eject such unauthorised occupiers will be taken.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that these instructions are only being obeyed by those who are not Government servants and there are many Government servants who are in possession of evacuee houses unlawfully ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is giving rather than seeking any information.

**Shri Virendra :** Is the Government aware that a parliamentary Secretary has got a palatial building belonging to a Muslim in Jullundur ?

**Minister :** I cannot say offhand. I shall make enquiries.

**Shri Virendra :** Does the hon. Minister not know it already ?

**Minister :** I am not a prophet that I can know things without making enquiries.

**Shri Virendra :** That building has been in the possession of the Parliamentary Secretary for the last 1½ years.

**Minister :** I do not have dreams of such things.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is it a fact that this question was put during the session held in October last ?

**Premier :** If it was asked it must have been replied to.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Then the hon. Minister is supposed to know the reply.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether that house was regularly allotted to the Parliamentary Secretary and many refugee families are living in it ?

**Minister :** I do not know anything about it.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** The hon. Minister only knows from whom to snatch a house and whom to give. (Laughter)

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No insinuation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the Parliamentary Secretary who is in Canada is in possession of a very big house in Jullundur with a garden attached to it ?

**Mr. Speaker :** A reply has been given to this question already that enquiries will be made.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it not a fact that the Minister received a letter about that Parliamentary Secretary and a reply was also given and now the Minister says that he does not know anything ?

**Minister :** That is an insinuation against the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Mr. Speaker :** No insinuation against a Member who is absent.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** When was that letter received and what action was taken on it ?

**Shri Virendra :** When will the enquiries be completed ?

**Minister :** Very soon.

#### RECOVERY OF MUSLIM PROPERTY FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

**\*802. Shri Parbodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Muslim property has been recovered from any Government officer : If so, the number of such officers;
- (b) what action, if any, has been taken against such officers ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) No such case has so far been brought to the notice of the Head Office.

The required information, is however being collected from the District Offices.

- (b) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that a complaint was received by the Government that one of the ex-Ministers or present Ministers was found to be in possession of Muslim property after enquiry ?

**Minister :** It is ridiculous.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that Master Tara Singh made a statement to the effect that if the Government wanted he could tell the name of that particular Minister ?

**Premier :** I wrote to Master Tara Singh a letter on the subject, but he never replied.

**Mr. Speaker :** A Member who is absent should not be attacked.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is Master Tara Singh a Member ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not Master Tara Singh but an hon. ex-Minister who is being attacked.

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### FALSE CLAIMS FOR LANDS

**\*803. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of refugees who filed false claims for lands;
- (b) what action, if any, has been taken against them ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) As a result of the oral verification of claims 2305 cases of false and exaggerated claims were reported.
- (b) 327 cases have so far been sent to the police for prosecution of the claimants. Verification of the remaining cases from the jamabandis received from West Punjab is in progress and proceedings will be instituted shortly.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know if, out of the cases that have been sent to the police, any case has been decided after enquiry ?

**Minister :** Cases have been registered and prosecutions will be made. It takes time.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that only poor people are being prosecuted and no action is being taken against big people ?

**Minister :** It is entirely wrong. There is no difference between a big man or a small man in the eyes of law.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Is there any M.L.A. among them ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member might be knowing better.

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**CANCELLATION OF ALLOTMENTS OF LAND MADE TO  
HARIJANS IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT**

**\*804. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in many cases the allotments of lands made in favour of Harijans in Zail Gajju, district Gurdaspur have been cancelled; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** Out of 160 allotments of lands to Harijans in Zail Gajju district Gurdaspur, 33 allotments were cancelled due to the absence of allottees. No other allotment was cancelled for any reasons.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has he received any representation from the Harijans that the allotments were cancelled under the influence of the Rajputs of the place?

**Minister :** I have not received any such representation but have heard this thing for the first time from the hon. Member himself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was this allotment made to them as tenants or as owners?

**Minister :** Only as cultivators.

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**SETTLEMENT OF RAI SIKH REFUGEES IN EAST PUNJAB**

**\*832. Sant Narinder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of evacuee land allotted to Rai Sikh Refugees in East Punjab ;
- (b) whether the Government has under consideration any scheme of rehabilitating them permanently on the border of East Punjab ;
- (c) what other advantages the Government propose to give them under the permanent rehabilitation scheme ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) Information is being collected.
  - (b) No.
  - (c) Government does not propose to give any special advantages to any class of people in the quasi permanent settlement. Every one class will take its chance with other classes of land claimants.
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RECOVERY OF DEPOSITS OF REFUGEES LYING IN  
COOPERATIVE BANKS OF WEST PUNJAB

**\*721. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government intends recovering the deposits of refugees and others lying in the Cooperative Banks of West Punjab;
- (b) the total amount of such deposits ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Considerable sums are involved but the final figure has not yet been arrived at.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has any sum been recovered from the West Punjab so far ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No amount has been recovered so far but their amount lying with the Reserve Bank of India has been freezed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How much is this amount which has been freezed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** About 4 crores.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Parliamentary Secretary know that it is not in the power of the Provincial Government to freeze this amount ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A civil suit has been filed and the court has issued an injunction freezing this amount ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know where and by whom has the civil suit been filed—by the Government or the persons concerned ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The civil suit has been filed by the East Punjab Government in a court at Ambala.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has the Government received any representations from the persons asking that they may be given some money on the basis of their deposits in the West Punjab Banks as they have nothing to fall back upon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A sum of rupees ten lacs has been provided and placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Societies to give help to hard pressed people.

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**EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL BODIES  
FROM WEST PUNJAB IN THE LOCAL BODIES OF EAST PUNJAB**

**\*805. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any notification was issued by the Government directing the local bodies to employ only displaced employees of the local bodies from the West Punjab ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the unanimous resolution of the District Board, Ludhiana regarding the employment of S. Partap Singh B. A., in that Department was rejected by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division because he was not a displaced employee ?

**Parliamentary Secretary ; (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes. But this notification also provides for :-
  - (i) the appointment of refugees from West Punjab who are not displaced employees of local bodies ;
  - (ii) the promotion of the existing employees of local bodies in East Punjab; and
  - (iii) the appointment of refugees from elsewhere or non-refugees where suitable refugees from West Punjab are not available, with the approval of Government.
- (b) The resolution of the Board was not unanimous. The Commissioner at first superseded the execution of this resolution but later withdrew his orders.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Whether it is a fact that when refugees and displaced employees of local bodies are available in Ludhiana and elsewhere other persons have been taken in the service of the district boards ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Where such persons have been taken orders have been sent by the Government to remove such persons but I may tell the hon. Member that it is very rare that such persons have been taken.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I ask why such persons were taken even rarely ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Because at the time of appointments suitable persons were not available.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Suitable persons were not available or because they were influential people and therefore they were appointed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an insinuation.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that the District Board Ludhiana passed a resolution, by an overwhelming majority, recommending the appointment of Sardar Partap Singh B. A. but the Commissioner, Jullundur Division rejected this recommendation. Has the Government called for an explanation from the Commissioner as to why he rejected the resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The question of calling for an explanation by the Commissioner does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Did the District Board Ludhiana send a representation protesting against the order of the Commissioner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that certain members of the district board threatened to resign and only then the Commissioner withdrew his order ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no information that certain members threatened to resign.

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RESERVATION IN SERVICES IN CERTAIN  
DEPARTMENTS FOR HARIJANS

**\*731. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any quota has been fixed for the employment of Harijans in the Police, Judicial and Revenue Departments of the Province ;
- (b) their number in these Departments at present ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) No.
- (b) The number of Harijan employees in the Police, Judicial and Revenue Departments is 631, 5 and 166 respectively.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the number of Harijan officers and subordinates in the Police, Judicial and Revenue Departments ?

**Premier :** It is very difficult to remember the figures by heart, if the hon. Member wants this information he will have to give notice of a question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the number of officers is very small from amongst the Harijans ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is a question of opinion.

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### PRINTING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

**\*849. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that electoral rolls are being printed at Delhi and not in East Punjab;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these rolls are being printed at the rate of Rs. 5/14/- per page per thousand, when Presses are working at Government flat rate of Rs. 1/2/- per page at Jullundur;
- (c) whether it is a fact that on this transaction Government may have to pay seven lakhs of rupees in excess;
- (d) whether it is a fact that only one press in Punjab was asked to submit its tender for this work and that too was rejected afterwards;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the following publishers were asked to submit their tenders for this work by the Superintendent, Government Press, Simla :—
  - (i) Munshi Gulab Singh, (ii) Attar Chand Kapur, (iii) Gulab Chand Kapoor, (iv) Hassan Press (v) Chopra Press and (vi) Narinder Press ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes, the electoral rolls are being printed at the rate of Rs. 5/14/- per page. The rate depends upon the nature of the work to be printed and not on the number of pages.  
Government are not aware of any flat rate of Rs. 1/2/- per page fixed by them for any printing work or of the nature of such work.  
Chopra Printing Press, Jullundur, quoted Rs. 7/4/- per page as their charge for the printing of electoral rolls.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Yes, but presses in East Punjab were asked to intimate their capacity of work and to state whether they would be able to undertake printing of the rolls. In view of the need for economy

[Premier]

it was considered expedient to get the work done at one place, i. e Delhi. No other place offered all the required facilities.

(e) Yes, besides these other presses were also asked to quote their rates.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Premier know that tenders of Rs. 3/2/- and 2/12/- were rejected but a higher tender of Rs. 5/14/- was accepted ?

**Premier :** There is no truth in it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Was Rs. 5/14/- the tender of the least amount ?

**Premier :** Tenders for Rs. 6/-, 6/4/-, 6/10/- and 9/4/- were received from different presses of Delhi, Allahabad and Lucknow. Indian Press Allahabad would do only 1000 pages per month. Nawal Kishore Press Lucknow was not ready to do the whole job so in order to get the whole work at one place it was decided to get the work done at Delhi and although the tender was for 6/- but the press was asked to do the work at Rs. 5/14/-.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that Mr. Luthra received offer from.....

**Mr Speaker :** It would be better if the hon. Member does not mention any names. He should mention the designation alone.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Premier know that the Election Commissioner was told by certain presses that they were prepared to do the work at Rs. 4/12/- and Rs. 5/2/- within time ?

**Premier :** Some presses might have said so. But this work was of such a nature that arrangements had to be made by the press for our 225 persons who had to be there in this connection and keeping all these things in view the tender of a Delhi press was accepted who was prepared to do the work for Rs. 5/14/- instead of Rs. 6/-.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that at Delhi a press did not have a litho machine and it had to take one on hire to do the work ?

**Premier :** I have no knowledge.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Sir, will the supplementaries continue tomorrow on this question. I want to ask a question ;—

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think it is necessary to continue any more supplementaries as enough supplementaries have been asked.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### DISTRIBUTION OF PAY TO PATWARIS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

**203. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that before the Partition, the salaries of the revenue patwaris used to be sent through money orders and the money order commission was paid by the Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this practice has since been given up and that the revenue patwaries of the Amritsar District are made to come to the Tahsil Headquarters to receive their salaries; if so, the reasons for this change;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the revenue patwaris are put to great inconvenience every month in getting their salaries from far off Tehsil Headquarters; if so, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No. They were paid at Tahsil Headquarters, when they happened to be there, for rehabilitation work.
- (c) Does not arise.

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### PROVIDING A SHED FOR PASSENGERS AT HARIKE PATTAN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

**204. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no shed for the protection of the passengers from sun and rain at Harike Pattan, District Amritsar;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter.

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
  - (b) A proposal for providing accommodation is under examination.
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PAYMENT OF BILLS DUE FROM THE WEST PUNJAB.

**205. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that any negotiations have been going on between the East Punjab Government and the West Punjab Government regarding the payment of the bills due from each Government to the refugees of the West Punjab and the East Punjab; if so, the result thereof?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:** Yes. And as a result of such negotiations the authorities of the East Punjab and West Punjab have decided to grant permission for the free movement of moneys relating to this item and payable to evacuees. It is now not necessary to obtain from the Custodian or from any Deputy Custodian permission for the payment or transmission of any such amounts.

The relevant circulars of the West Punjab and East Punjab authorities are given below.

*Copy of letter No. CEP-XIV-F-I(C)/11382 dated the 2nd February, 1949, from S. A. Rehman, Esquire, Custodian of Evacuees Property, West Punjab, Lahore to all the Deputy Custodians of Evacuee Property in West Punjab and all the Deputy Commissioners in the West Punjab and copy to the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan, Lahore.*

**Subject :—***Payment of Contractor's Bills, Leave Salary and Provident Fund, Amounts of Government servants and servants of Universities, Local Bodies, etc., Court Deposits, Scholarships due to students etc.*

It has been decided to grant permission with immediate effect for the free movement of moneys relating to items such as illustrated above and payable to evacuees. This decision may, therefore, be noted and communicated to all concerned. It would not now be necessary to obtain from the Custodian or from any Deputy Custodian permission for the payment or transmission of any such amounts.

*Copy of letter No. 562/Cir./Genl. dated the 22-2-49 from Custodian Evacuee Property, East Punjab, Jullundur to all the Deputy Commissioners and all Heads of Departments in the East Punjab.*

**Subject :—***Payment of Contractor's Bills, Leave Salary and Provident Fund, Amounts of Government Servants and Servants of Universities, Local Bodies etc. Court Deposits, Scholarships due to students etc.*

In view of the decisions taken by the Inter Dominion Conference held recently, it has been decided to grant permission with immediate effect for the



free movement of money relating to items such as illustrated above and payable to evacuees. This decision may, therefore, be noted and communicated to all concerned. It would not now be necessary to obtain from the Custodian or from any Deputy Custodian permission for the payment or transmission of any such amounts.

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PERSONS BELONGING TO CRIMINAL TRIBES IN VILLAGE  
SABRAI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

**206. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of such residents of village Sabrai, P. S. Patti, District Amritsar, whose names are still included in the list of Criminal Tribes Register together with the dates of the registration in each case ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some of them have made representation to the Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes, Amritsar, on 10th December, 1948, stating that since their registration some 20 years ago they had never been found guilty of any offence ; if so, whether any enquiry has been made in the matter and the result thereof ;
- (c) the number of offences committed by each of the persons referred to in part (a) above and the number of the convictions by court of laws after the registration of his name in the Criminal Tribes Register ;
- (d) the nature of the offences committed and the dates thereof ;
- (e) the nature of the last offence committed along with the last date of conviction ;
- (f) whether those persons referred to in part (b) above who have never committed any offence since the day of registration have been excluded from the restrictions ; if not, the reasons thereof ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

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EXCLUSION OF BHARBHUNJAS OF PATTI, DISTRICT  
AMRITSAR, FROM CRIMINAL TRIBES.

**207. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that *Bharbhunjās* of Patti Town, district Amritsar, were declared to be treated as Criminal Tribes some years ago ;
- (b) the number of persons referred to in part (a) above together with their occupation ;
- (c) the number of such persons who have been convicted by the court of law during the last 20 years together with the nature of the offences committed by each one of them ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that there are some persons of this tribe who have never committed any offence during the last 20 years or more but are still treated as Criminals ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** (a) No (b) to (e) Do not arise.

JAMA MASJID, GURGAON.

**208. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are Muslim families of Gurgaon Town who did not migrate to Pakistan during the riots but have been living there ; if so, the number of such families ;
- (b) whether there is any Jama Masjid at Gurgaon ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this Jama Masjid was occupied by the Government after or during the disturbances of 1947 ; if so, the purpose thereof ;
- (d) whether it has been vacated by the Government by now ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

- (e) whether any enquiry was made by the Government as a result of complaints submitted by me on 16th December, 1948, and 20th February, 1949, to the Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that some cement was stocked there by a Department of the Government ; if so, what action, if any, has been taken to remove it ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) First part.....No.  
Second part does not arise.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) First part.....yes.  
Second part.....For housing Muslim evacuees including Meos who returned from Pakistan and other provinces in the Indian dominion, or who were on their way to Pakistan.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Yes, on receipt of letter dated 20/2/49. The one, dated 16-12-48 was not received by Government.
- (f) Yes. The Cement stock was removed long ago.

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#### RATIONING AND MARRIAGE PARTIES.

**209. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any orders have been issued for the supply of ration in the cities where rationing of food has been enforced for marriage parties and for temporary guests; if so, since when ;
- (b) the maximum number of guests fixed for such marriage parties ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) 1st Part———Yes.  
2nd Part———9-3-49.
  - (b) Twentyfive
-

REPRESENTATION OF TWO MUSLIMS OF ZIRA TEHSIL FOR  
RESTORATION OF THEIR LANDS AND HOUSES TO THEM.

**210. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any representation, dated 24th February, 1949, from Shrimati Akko, widow of Sheru, son of Baggu, a Muslim of village Chuharchak, Tehsil Zira, district Ferozepore, was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation, Ferozepore;
- (b) whether any representation, dated 24th February 1949, from Sohna son of Dosandhi, a Muslim of village Chuharchak, Tehsil Zira, district Ferozepore, was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation, Ferozepore ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that both the applicants referred to above have claimed that they have all along been living in their villages and had never gone to Pakistan after the partition and that they were forcibly dispossessed from their houses and lands by the non-muslim refugees and that they be put into possession of their lands and houses again ;
- (d) what action, if any, has been or proposed to be taken to restore their houses and lands to them ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) & (d) The applicants were never dispossessed forcibly from their houses and lands. They left their village during the disturbances of their own accord. An enquiry is in progress to find out if they left for Pakistan or remained within the Indian Union. Their claims for restoration of their property will be duly considered according to the instructions already issued on the subject. They have, however, been provided accommodation in the village where they are living peacefully.

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FURNISHING OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION  
OF HON. MINISTERS.

**211. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total amount spent by the Government for furnishing the residential houses at Simla of each of the hon. Ministers up till 31st December, 1948 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** The total value of furniture supplied is the same as was given in reply to Question No. 606. No further furniture has been supplied in the hon. Ministers' houses between 31-3-1948 and 31-12-1948.

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**DISTRIBUTION OF QUILTS AND CLOTHES IN VILLAGES  
OF TEHSIL PATTI.**

**212. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) total number of different kinds of clothes and quilts supplied by the Government as a relief measure for the refugees in sub-tehsil Patti, district Amritsar;
- (b) names of villages, Zailwise, where clothes and quilts were distributed together with the number of clothes and quilts distributed in each village ;
- (c) the number of clothes and quilts distributed in each of the urban areas of tehsil referred to above ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:** I regret that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

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**DEMANDS OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS CLASSICAL AND  
VERNACULAR TEACHERS' UNION.**

**213. Pandit Faqir Chand:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Government Schools Classical and Vernacular Teachers' Union of the united Punjab ever gave a notice of a strike to get their demands regarding increase in pay and percentage of posts conceded; if so, the details of those demands;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the strike was held in abeyance as a result of a definite undertaking given to them to fulfil some of their demands by the Government;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the above referred to undertaking was given by the Director of Public Instruction who is now Director of Public Instruction of the East Punjab;
- (d) if the answers to parts (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, what decision has been arrived at by the Government ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** (a) No there are no such papers in the office.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

(d) On the receipt of representation from the classical and vernacular teachers of Government Schools the question of revision of scales of pay of these teachers was taken up and their scales revised with effect from 1.4.46.

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REVISION OF GRADES OF PAY OF CLASSICAL AND  
VERNACULAR TEACHERS.

**214. Pandit Faqir Chand:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the grades of pay of all the departments of the Government of united Punjab were revised in 1946;
- (b) the reasons why the case of classical and vernacular section of the Education department was made exception and their scale of pay was not revised in 1946;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to revise their grades of pay now?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** (a) and (b) The attention of hon. Member is invited to the answer already given in response to Starred Assembly Question No. 695<sup>1</sup>.

- (c) No, there is no proposal at present to revise the grades of pay of these officials.

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FILLING UP OF POSTS OF JUNIOR GODOWN KEEPERS  
IN GOVERNMENT CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, AMRITSAR.

**215. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** With reference to the advertisement published by the Superintendent, Government Central Workshops, Amritsar, for the recruitment of Junior Godown Keepers, in which it is stated that only Sikhs should apply, will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue please state why the applications of members of only one community have been invited in this case?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** No. Advertisement contained the words "Sikhs and others."

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<sup>1</sup>Vide page (15) 12 supra



## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS LAND REVENUE

3 p.m.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :  
Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,440 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of 7-Land Revenue.

*The motion was carried.*

## MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES

**Minister for Finance** : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,660 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Act and other Taxes and Duties.

*The motion was carried.*

## IRRIGATION WORKS

**Minister for Finance** : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,40,830 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Irrigation Works.

*The motion was carried.*

## JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

**Minister for Finance** : I beg to move---

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,99,400/- be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried.*

## POLICE

**Minister for Finance** : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,380 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Police.

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,380 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Police.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** (Hansi, General, rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have given careful consideration to the Supplementary Estimates presented today. One thing to note with regard to them is the Estimate of expenditure to be incurred on Police. There is no doubt about it that the Police Department is an important Department. But we have to see how much we can easily economise without any loss of efficiency and service. Sir, here I wish to draw the attention of the honourable Members to items one and two on page twenty four. Of course it is necessary that the essential needs of the Province should be met. But in this particular case the staff employed for the purpose is more than necessary. Reduction in it will not affect the work adversely. Here I may draw the attention of the House for instance to anti-smuggling work. There is one Police Officer for this job, one enforcement Inspector and one civil supplies sub-Inspector. Their duties overlap. This overlapping of functions should be removed. Sir, I would suggest that a careful consideration be given to this matter. By co-ordination much saving can be effected. Of course control on the movements of food supplies is essential and we don't want that foodgrains should flow out of the Province. But I feel that at present the work entrusted to the various officers can be co-ordinated. I would suggest that Heads of the various Departments should sit together and formulate a scheme of work so that instead of loss some gain may accrue. Some of the departments are spending lavishly. So if the matter is discussed and thrashed out there can be a good deal of saving of expenditure.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, in the supplementary demands that are before the House for discussion, I find three demands on which I would like to express my opinion. First is the demand for expenditure on the Prohibition Scheme in the District of Rohtak. Second is that on which Chaudhri Suraj Mal has thrown some light. Third is about the additional Security Staff mentioned in item 13 page 25.

About the first demand I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that in Rohtak District the pace of the Scheme of Prohibition is not as rapid as it was expected to be. Either the staff employed for the purpose is inadequate or they wilfully neglect their duties. Government has done well in starting the experiment of Prohibition in the province. But if this scheme is not worked out properly, I am sure, there will be an all-round increase in the crimes. People like to earn huge profits by smuggling liquor into the district. They even continue the practice of distilling it themselves. I do not think that the police staff of Rohtak has

by merely making arrests done enough work in connection with the enforcement of prohibition in the district. It is far from right to say that a few arrests go to prove the success of this experiment or that more arrests made in this connection prove the efficiency of the police staff in doing the work successfully. If this scheme of prohibition is not enforced successfully I am sure this will have far reaching effects upon the working of the very scheme and other schemes in other parts of the province. I am of the opinion that in spite of the employment of the police staff and the expenditure incurred for carrying on propaganda work, prohibition does not appear to be properly enforced. There is no doubt about it that most of the people of this district are not addicted to drinking and that many people cannot afford to spend on this social evil. It is because of this fact that there has been a marked decrease in the number and I think that this decrease in this number was quite natural. This is not the time for the Government to think about increasing the strength of the police or reducing the already increased number of the staff. On the other hand Government should make it a point to appoint some responsible officer to see that this experiment of prohibition is enforced strictly. It will not be out of place to mention here that this is the first experiment which is being tried in the whole of the province. There is no doubt about it that this is a good measure. People are inclined to doubt whether the efforts will be crowned with success or not. My hon. Friends know it full well that this scheme has already been worked out successfully in Bombay and Madras. Some people who are not in favour of drinking earnestly desire that this experiment of prohibition should prove a success. They are of the opinion that if this scheme of prohibition is not enforced strictly and vigilantly, Government would suffer a great loss. I am constrained to remark that no substantial work is being done by the Government to give relief to the common man. This scheme of prohibition seems to be successful on paper only. No effective machinery is employed to make this scheme a success. While enforcing this scheme, only poor and helpless people are harassed and arrested, while no such action is taken against the rich and the influential persons. I even go to the extent of saying this that no ways and means have been devised by the Government to check the activities of the officers in this connection. I wish to quote an instance of my district where the police staff has been employed for enforcing the prohibition and for which the proposed demand has been made by the hon. Finance Minister.

**Premier :** The hon. Member must have published some interesting instances in his "Haryana Tilak".

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Yes, I do publish.

**Premier :** It was published in the paper that the scheme has proved a success.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** There is no doubt about it that in newspapers and especially in Congress papers it is but meet and proper to encourage the Government. People are not disheartened yet. Success is quite a comprehensive term.

I had a chance to see a certain officer whom I told that the conditions are now improving. I was surprised to hear him say "you cannot say it has become better, you can only say that it has become worse." We should see whether the actions of the Government in certain matters are justified or not. Government has done well in starting the experiment of prohibition in the district of Rohtak. In fact our Government has gone a step further in this direction in choosing Rohtak because the people over there are not addicted to drinking.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** Most of the people of this district are addicted to drinking.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is just possible there may be a large number of people who drink. (*Laughter*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I wish to submit that at the time of inauguration ceremony of this scheme when the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise was present there, I appreciated the move of the Government. It will not be out of place to mention here that had this scheme of prohibition been started in the districts of Hoshiarpur, Jullundur or Ludhiana, I am sure Government would have to wait for a long time to achieve success.

**Premier :** Does the hon. member feel worried why prohibition has been enforced as an experimental measure in Rohtak district ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Premier only talks in terms of schemes and nothing more than that.

**Premier :** I doubt that the hon. Member has been praising the scheme.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am prepared to praise many of your things, which do not deserve any praise.

Since it is the first experiment of the Government, it is but meet and proper on its part to be vigilant.

Large-scale smuggling of liquor is going on on the Grand Trunk Road bordering the district of Rohtak. No adequate measures have been adopted by the Government in preventing this smuggling business. Police posts have been stationed at two places where the Grand Trunk Road borders this district. Searches are also being conducted of those people who pass through this road. I cannot say whether the police staff have felt that people who smuggle liquor into the district can safely continue doing so from other advantageous points of the road. A high official was travelling in his car. The police staff stationed at the police post did not know who he was. The staff had to perform its duty. An ordinary search was made. A bottle of liquor was found wrapped in paper with his orderly. He was challaned and he afterwards furnished security. People do not judge whether the prohibitive measures would be successful or not. Poor people are unnecessarily harassed. When a person passes through this district, all his personal affects are searched and in case he has any bottle of liquor with him, a permit is issued to him which he has to produce at the time of leaving the boundary line of the district.

It is really a good thing that our Government has started this scheme. But I cannot do without saying this that it is the bounden duty of the Government to see that people are not put to any inconvenience or hardships I know it for certain that the difficulties of the poor people do not reach the Government and if these are brought to its notice here in this House through questions, the replies are not quite satisfactory. If the Government resort to the same tactics employed by the former Government of the United Punjab, I am sure, it is no use incurring expenditure on this police staff for which a demand has been brought before the House and the purpose for which the demand has been made will not be served. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the desired results have not been achieved. The experiment was not proved as successful as it should have been. The work of enforcement of prohibition has been far from satisfactory, owing to the failure of the Enforcement Staff to prevent smuggling. I may also point out, Sir, that my district is to a very large extent free from the evil of illicit distillation of liquor, as compared with most other districts of the Province. The vice of drinking too is not so widely prevalent among the people of my district.



[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

But it is a matter for great regret, Sir, that both these evils should have been on the increase, since the enforcement of prohibition. This means Sir, that on the one hand prohibition has caused some loss in the provincial revenues, and on the other hand it has not achieved the desired results. I am actuated by the desire to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent necessity of taking such steps as may make this experiment an unqualified success. The present state of affairs is to say the least unsatisfactory. Sir, cases have come to our notice, in which innocent people were implicated owing to personal grudge. Complaints have been made from time to time against the malpractices of the police, including the staff specially posted for the enforcement of prohibition. Instances of their conniving at the real culprits and harassing innocent persons by placing bottles in their houses and concocting false charges, have not been uncommon. Again we have heard complaints against officials put on enforcement work, going to catch persons indulging in illicit distillation and themselves becoming tipsy and forgetting their duty. One can hear such scandalous stories in villages. So far as I remember, such complaints were made by one or two M. L. As. to the district authorities. The very fact that our Government felt the necessity of appointing two lecturers or preachers, clearly shows that it did not consider the work and achievements of the enforcement staff satisfactory. Our hon. Minister obviously thought that better results could be achieved by lectures and sermons. On one occasion, when I was not present two of these lecturers are stated to.....

**An hon. Member :** Voting of money for these lecturers is not under discussion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I was submitting, Sir, that we do not want that our Government which is so wise (*Interruption*).....

I was saying, Sir, that though the Government adopted every conceivable method to make this experiment a success.....

**Mr. Speaker :** 'Parcharaks' are not under discussion (*Hear, hear from the Treasury Benches*).

**Premier :** On a point of order, Sir. The particular item which the hon. Member is discussing is not there. Moreover, this is a supplementary demand and the amount, as a matter of fact, has already been spent. It is not to be incurred in the future period.



**Mr. Speaker :** He can speak on the subject because the additional staff that has been engaged came under the demand. He can speak on prohibition and the staff required for that purpose. (*Hear, hear, from the Opposition Benches*).

**Premier :** 'Parcharkas' do not come under this demand.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have already ruled that he should not speak on that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I am grateful to you for removing the misunderstanding of the hon. Premier. I was not going to talk about the matter which was making him so anxious. I had left that topic three minutes ago. Sir, before that, I was drawing the attention of the Government to the fact that some people who were expected to help the Police in enforcing prohibition, got innocent people implicated on concocted charges. The result was that the cases were dismissed by the courts and police earned a bad name for itself and also for the Government. It is far from my intention to discourage the Government. My object in saying all this is to emphasize that Government should not remain complacent under the impression that the work of enforcement is being carried on vigilantly. This supplementary demand would no doubt be passed. But what we desire is that the Government should take steps to ensure that this grand experiment for which additional money is required, proves an unqualified success.

Secondly, I want to make a few observations about the problem of smuggling, since additional money is being demanded for anti-smuggling staff. Sir, I have my connection with those districts, which are on the border of this province and which are contiguous with the territory of Delhi and U. P. I want to bring to the notice of the Government that smuggling is being carried on, on a large scale in these districts. The staff that has been posted in this connection is not doing anything to prevent it. As one of my friends told me, keeping in view the strength of the staff, the results are hopelessly disappointing in spite of the fact that sufficient provision was made for anti-smuggling staff in the Budget for the current year, it is now stated that it has not proved sufficient and, therefore, a supplementary demand has been made. The staff that was appointed for checking smuggling, has failed to prevent it. Many instances have come to notice in which the Police officers colluded with the traders. The few officers who are honest are not receiving any encouragement while the corrupt officers are carrying on their activities unchecked. I feel, Sir, that if the problem of smuggling in the case of other commodities is difficult to tackle, it is all the more so in the case of liquor. In

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

the case of liquor, the temptations are very great. By showing a little boldness and courage, a smuggler can earn hundreds of rupees in a very short time. We want the Government to realize this thing. So far as the smuggling in foodgrains is concerned, it is outside the scope of to-day's discussion. However I cannot help pointing out that the difference in the rates of foodgrains in Delhi and East Punjab is so great, that it tempts many traders to indulge in smuggling. Employment of more staff would not serve any good purpose, since the border line is so long and arbitrary and the temptations so great, that it would not be possible to check smuggling by employing more and more staff.

Sir, so far as the smuggling in this province is concerned, the police had once to encounter the smugglers. One man was killed and the Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector had a narrow escape. In spite of all this there has been no decrease in the smuggling. It is mainly due to the fact that no encouragement is afforded to the staff detailed on duty for this purpose. The result is that the police staff is earning thousands of rupees by way of bribes and allowing these smugglers to carry on their activities undisturbed. The best course is that honest officers should be given promotions in service so that they may have some impetus to put their best efforts to prevent smuggling in the province. I have no objection if this supplementary demand is passed provided the Government takes stringent measures to nullify all attempts at smuggling in the province. But what I find is that the expenditure so incurred is usually wasted. I find that smuggling is in full swing in some of the districts on account of their being in close proximity to Delhi and other districts of U.P. In fact people have now become accustomed to it and if any attempt is made to arrest their activities, they start hostile propaganda against the Government. This is mainly due to the fact that the Government does not adopt stringent measures to enforce the anti-smuggling scheme. I had an opportunity to talk with a responsible officer of the anti-smuggling staff on this subject and he confessed his helplessness to prevent smuggling on account of the inadequate staff consisting of 10 or 12 foot constables and 2 Sub-Inspectors to supervise so many districts. I know that the Government realise that these activities are carried on large scale, but there is no effective machinery to prevent it. It would have been better if the Government, before presenting this supplementary demand before the House, had realised that the efforts of the anti-smuggling staff already employed did not bear any fruit and in consideration of

this fact had not presented this demand before the House. As it has now been presented, we feel no objection to support this demand provided the Government makes its best efforts with full responsibility to prevent smuggling even though it may have to employ high officers for this purpose. There are many cognizable offences detailed in the Indian Penal Code and the smuggling is a new social offence which can only be dealt with by strong measures. I think that the anti-smuggling staff cannot successfully foil all attempts for smuggling without the whole-hearted co-operation of the general public. So the Government will be well advised to take the help of public workers in order to tackle this problem successfully.

Thirdly, a supplementary demand for the sum of Rs. 1,76,440 has been presented before the House to defray the charges for additional staff required for security intelligence in districts. This staff is employed to collect intelligence and prevent fifth column activities of disaffected elements in the province. I would not have raised the least objection even if the sum had been greater provided we are satisfied that this intelligence staff so employed actually keeps the Government well informed by collecting intelligence in the province. From the information supplied by the Government in reply to my questions on the floor of the House from time to time, I have come to the conclusion that the Government is utterly in the dark about the day-to-day happenings in the province. So far as the Communist movement is concerned, only the poor and the innocent are made to suffer by the false report of the police officers to satisfy their private spite. As a matter of fact this intelligence staff have not in their possession any correct information. So far as the R.S.S. movement is concerned, it will be recalled that the movement was banned by the Government and the persons who were arrested were consequently released by the Government. It is a pity that the Government could not get the information about the activities of the Sangh workers. It was only through Congress workers and the members of the Assembly that the Government came to know about their activities and then it took preventive measures in this behalf. During the interim period that elapsed between the declaration of R.S.S. as unlawful body and the launching of satyagraha by R.S.S. workers for the second time, the Government had not in its possession the full information through the agency of this intelligence department. It is obvious, therefore, that the huge expenditure incurred in this connection is not commensurate with the results achieved. The Ministers of the Government do not pay any heed to such matters as their minds are generally pre-occupied with heavy engagements while on tour. I would say that this demand relates to a heavy

[Premier]

expenditure of Rs. 1,76,440 which is likely to be wasted without serving any useful purpose. I cannot help saying that our Government is in fact deaf and blind and does not employ right type of persons to collect intelligence. It will be apparent that the persons who were liable to be arrested in the Communist movement have all gone underground. In the case of R.S.S. movement the Government did not act wisely and failed to take precautionary measures. It will be evident from the fact that the supporters of this movement are still to be found in large numbers in Government services. Before presenting a supplementary demand, it is the duty of the Government to see whether the purpose for which such a heavy expenditure is incurred, is usefully served or not. So far as the security of the province is concerned, our Government is deaf and blind.

**Mr. Speaker :** That has been repeated twice by the hon. Member.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** As it is a very important matter, it is necessary to repeat it, so that something of what I say may reach the ears of our Government, which is deaf and blind. I do not wish to say much, but I feel that the expenditure which is being incurred in this connection is sheer waste of money. The Government is not discharging its responsibilities properly. If there is no improvement in the information which the Government receives and in the manner it acts on that, it will become impossible to live in peace in this province.

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I was amazed to hear my hon. Friend say that we are living in a 'world of deaf and blind'. I, however, claim to live in a world where there are men who sit, go about and hear with open eyes and ears.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Not only that, they speak so much.

**Premier :** The first objection which has been raised is that our information is very meagre. It has been said that these communists who should have been arrested have gone underground and innocent persons have been detained. My hon. Friend can say these things, if he has information about the persons who have gone underground, but if he has no information on the subject, his accusation is unjustified. I have received complaints that the Government has arrested wrong persons. Those who make such complaints think that whatever they are told by some people is correct. On going through these complaints, I found these

to be incorrect. I have received reports that absconders meet their friends and talk with them. Is it not the duty of those persons to help the Government in arresting the absconders ?

Then, Sir, I have been told that Government arrests wrong persons. If my hon. Friends know the whereabouts of real offenders, it is their duty to assist the Government in effecting their arrest. I am sure that our Security and Intelligence Department is doing the work very efficiently. After all, those persons who were arrested during the Rashtriya Sewak Sangh movement or for communist activities, were arrested on the basis of reports sent by this Department. It is essential that the Government should act on these reports without letting the persons concerned know about them. These cease to be intelligence reports if the public comes to know about them. If the person against whom such report is made comes to know about it, how will the Government be able to take action against him ?

Then, Sir, it has been said that the state of law and order in our province is deplorable. I do not think it necessary to answer this charge because I know that it has been made merely for the sake of saying something.

Another thing which we have been told is that the Anti-smuggling Staff engaged by the Government is too large. Another Friend, however, suggested that we should engage more staff to completely check the smuggling of foodgrains which are being taken out of our province in spite of several precautions. The price of gram in our province is eight rupees per maund and in Delhi it is being sold at the rate of fourteen rupees per maund. This matter was discussed with a Minister of the Central Government. The difficulty is that the price of gram has not been fixed in Delhi. Even those food-grains of which the price has been controlled are being openly sold in Delhi. While the price of rationed wheat there is thirteen rupees or thirteen rupees eight annas per maund, it is being sold in the bazar at prices ranging from twenty eight rupees to thirty rupees per maund. The East Punjab Government has exported 97,000 tons of gram to other provinces through the Government of India. We asked the Central Government to purchase gram from us, for sale in Delhi, as it would help in bringing down its price there. If they did not accept our suggestion, how is the East Punjab Government or the Anti-smuggling Staff to blame? I am anxious to put an end to smuggling.

Another suggestion which has been made is that the work of Anti-smuggling Staff should be co-ordinated with that of the Anti-prohibition



[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

Staff. In my opinion, the staff which has been appointed to check smuggling of foodgrains cannot do its work, if it is asked to undertake some additional duties. Anti-prohibition Staff has a lot of work to do and has no spare time to look to other things. These days more staff is not available. If it were available, I would like to employ more persons in the Anti-smuggling Staff, so that our province may be saved the loss which it is suffering on account of smuggling of food-grains.

As regards prohibition, I wish to say only this that what has been said in this connection on the Supplementary Demand, should have been said at the time of discussion of the main Budget. Discussion at this stage can be of no use. The Supplementary Demand now before the House relates to expenditure which has been already incurred during the current financial year. It has been suggested that more money should have been spent on prohibition. There are only seven days left in the current year and we cannot spend more money in this period. If these suggestions had been made at the time of discussing the main Budget, they might have proved useful. Anyhow, I thank the hon. Members for the suggestions made by them and request that the Supplementary Demand as placed before the House be carried.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, may I through you ask the hon. Premier as to what is the difference between the prices at which gram is purchased by the Government and the prices which are charged from other Provinces ?

**Premier :** Usually the difference in prices is from six to eight annas. But now we have decided to buy gram at a ceiling price.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** When the selling prices in other Provinces are so high, where do the profits go ?

**Premier :** Only Governments of the United Provinces and Delhi are in a position to explain that.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** But does not the hon. Premier think that the zamindars of our province are being hard hit?

**Premier :** I do not agree with the hon. Member on this point. I believe that working on Governmental level entails no hardship to anybody. Of course, if somebody wished to indulge in black market, he could not like our schemes.



**Chaudhri Budlu Ram** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, it has been said that the police under consideration has been appointed in connection with the enforcement of prohibition. It is true this scheme has been a success to an appreciable extent at least in so far as new addicts were concerned, the old and the veterans having resorted to their own resources. But as an hon. Friend from my district has already remarked, I am also not completely satisfied with this work. I am sure if the police were to co-operate wholeheartedly with us, I mean the public men, not a single individual would have indulged in this vicious habit of drinking. This does not mean that I am not aware of elements in the public who put obstacles in the way of the police, but we should not be misled by them. I know of a case where a Sub-Inspector had searched a house and recovered some bottles of wine. Some people began to curse the police for putting some good people to unnecessary trouble. They wrote against the police even in the newspapers. But I say if wine is recovered from somebody, with what stretch of imagination can he be called a good man?

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not talk of good or bad men, but confine your remarks to the enforcement of prohibition.

**Chaudhri Budlu Ram :** Very well, Sir. The police also do not seem to be doing their duty properly. I say, if drinking is prohibited why should not the *swangs* be also banned in our district?

**Mr. Speaker :** What is a *swang* ?

**Chaudhri Budlu Ram :** Sir, *swang* is dance by a man wearing a woman's dress. Many people drink before going to see the *swangs* and so these *swangs* are a cause of immorality. This is the reason why I suggest that the *swangs* should be banned in our district.

A good deal of wine is consumed in our district at the time of marriages.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Does the hon. Member suggest that marriages should also be banned ?

**Chaudhri Budlu Ram :** The hon. Minister should not ban marriages but should ban use of wine on these occasions. If the hon. Minister happens to see a marriage party in my part of the Province, he will surely come across a few men who are drunk.

**Mr. Speaker :** Perhaps it is the Jats who drink.

**Chaudhri Budlu Ram :** Jats do not drink, they have no money.

Now I wish to say a few words about foodgrains. I think the policy of our Government in this respect is very defective and if it continues its restrictions on export of gram in Rohtak and Hissar, I am sure the zamindars of these places will give up their work of cultivating land. They do not follow the reason why a zamindar at Delhi should get Rs. 14/- for his gram when they get only rupees seven or rupees eight. Apparently a great injustice is being done to them. It may appear a joke but I think it may help if they are allowed to change places as perhaps then the Zamindars of both places may be able to sell their gram at Rs. 14/-. However if this cannot be done I would advise the Government to fix the price in Rohtak at rupees ten a maund at least.

**Mr. Speaker :** This has nothing to do with prohibition.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** But this state of affairs is also due to the inefficiency of the police.

**Mr. Speaker :** It will be better if these things are discussed at the time of discussion of the Agriculture Demand.

**Chaudhri Budlu Ram :** I can say with confidence that the police cannot successfully deal with the work of Anti-smuggling. I will, therefore urge upon our Government to fix the price of our gram higher than it is at present. With these words I conclude my speech.

**Mr. Speaker :** You should also say that people will start drinking if they get more money.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) Sir, I agree in principle with the policy of prohibition. The religious traditions of our Province also demand that. But in spite of these high principles, it is a fact that the poor people of the villages as well as the rich men of our country use liquor. Our Central Government has increased free import of liquors and wine but the duty on them has also been enhanced to increase their revenue. The other Provincial Governments are also trying to prohibit the use of liquor in their respective provinces. But there are certain facts which must be squarely faced. The House is aware that there is an alcohol Union just adjacent to our

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Province and its annual income is as much as rupees 1½ crores. If our Government starts prohibition, the natural result would be that either the people will themselves start illegal distilling of liquor or they shall get from Patiala Union.

**Mr. Speaker :** Do not be general in your remarks. Say something on the demand under consideration and make it relevant to the motion.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** The second objection that I have is with regard to the method of prohibition. Under this pretext, the police have greatly repressed the rural population. I would like to point out how in the district of the hon. Home Minister himself, the police has terrorised the poor people of the villages. Under the pretext of recovering illicit liquor, the police searched their houses and the women were also insulted. In fact the police wants to suppress the people of this district due to certain political considerations and the Inspector General of Police has a hand in the working of this policy. It is regretted that our Government which professes to follow high ideals should adopt such methods.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the item under discussion concerns the Rohtak District. The hon. Member, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, strictly confined his remarks to the Rohtak district which was under prohibition. But the hon. Member has brought the district of Jullundur under discussion, which is the district of hon. Minister for Home and Revenue.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** I was saying, Sir, that this policy of the Government will adversely affect the Budget of the Province. It also gives an opportunity to the police to terrorise the rural population. I would like to give an instance in this connection.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not concerned with any other district. I am concerned with the district of Rohtak which is under prohibition and for which this additional staff of police is required.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, I agree in principle with the demand for grant of more staff of police to the Rohtak district. But the House will agree with me that the police so often misuses its powers and without cause puts the poor people of the villages to trouble.

**Mr. Speaker :** Again the same thing is being repeated. I am sorry I shall have to stop the hon. Member if he indulges too much in irrelevancy.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, I agree with the principle of prohibition, but the powers that are being given to the police of the Rohtak district are bound to be utilized against the poor population of the villages and not against the rich; it is a hard fact. I shall have no objection to this demand if the Government can provide against the illicit import of liquor from outside and also against the misuse of powers by the police. But I know the way the police administration works. I will, therefore, urge upon the Government that the police officials who will be posted in the Rohtak district for this purpose, should be persons of established reputation for honesty and integrity of character. The Government should also see to it that those police officials are not biassed against the rural population. It is very sad that the Provincial Services should have any prejudice against the poor people of the villages and should tyrannise them. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh** (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to certain important facts regarding Anti-smuggling. My Ilaqa is situated at the border of the Province.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member has to discuss his own Ilaqa he can do that at some other time. This is not the time for that.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I won't speak for long. What I wish to say is that the M.L.A's from Rohtak side have cultivated a habit of opposing the Government at every step. In this connection I would like to refer to a story of the wife who always followed the wrong path.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** Is the hon. Member relevant ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. member should speak to the motion. The subject under discussion is prohibition in the District of Rohtak and the Additional Police staff employed there for the purpose. He should refrain from talking general things which may be left for general discussion.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Sir, I am going to talk about a particular woman of Rohtak who always followed the wrong path.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Member to resume his seat ?

**Minister for Labour and Excise** (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*): Sir, while discussing the fifth demand some hon. Members have not only criticized the police engaged in Prohibition work in Rohtak District but they have tried to show that the work

of the police is quite unsatisfactory. So in their opinion this item of demand is undesirable. They have not confined their objections to the work of the Police but have tried to misrepresent the scheme of Prohibition itself and bring it into disrepute in the eyes of the public. Sir, I wish to answer the criticism that has been levelled against the police engaged in the work of Prohibition in Rohtak District. There are some friends who have the habit of misrepresenting every right thing. Just as 'Majnu' engrossed in the love of his beloved 'Leila' could not see anything to his right or left, so my hon. Friend has lost all scruples in his ardent desire of his 'Leila'—Ministership.

**Mr. Speaker :** Better avoid the use of these words. I would ask the hon. Minister not to use such words as may cast reflection on another hon. Member.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, it was only a 'Jumla Muhtriza'.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is better if this "Jumla Muhtriza" is used outside the House and not here.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** I am sorry, Sir. I was going to say that I fully appreciate the work that the Police did and is still doing in Rohtak district in connection with the scheme of Prohibition. The scheme was started there in October 1948 with the help of the Police. Public meetings were held at various places. Panchayats have been formed to tell the people the evils of drinking. Police has done splendid work. In no other province has the police taken such an active part in this direction with the help of local men, M.L.A's and intelligentsia of the district. The police did such a fine job that it finds a unique place in the history of Police Department in East Punjab. The hon. Member who has just criticized the police here in this House, had himself paid a glowing tribute to the success of the police in getting co-operation from the public so far as the scheme of Prohibition in Rohtak is concerned. I am at a loss to understand that a responsible person, who holds one view of the matter outside the House, has given expression to quite a different view here. Sir, it is a question of principle and it should be viewed as such. No personal attacks should be made. It has been said that the police-men who are engaged in prohibition work in the District of Rohtak themselves take wine and that they get bottles of wine placed in other peoples' houses in order to arrest them. I may point out in this connection that so far no police constable or officer has broken the pledge.



[Minister for Labour and Excise]

Strangely enough those of them who were addicted to drinking frankly told the Superintendent of police beforehand that they were unable to give the pledge. To say that such honest men are drinking in private amounts to nothing but travesty of facts. Sometime back we received a complaint that a member of the police staff got some wine placed in a house and arrested a man in this connection. I was sorry to learn of this. An enquiry was made and later on we came to know that the man who was arrested was the henchman of a party. The hon. Members who throw mud on us in this House were the very people who tried to save him, although he was a real culprit. If there are people who did not co-operate with the staff engaged in the work of Prohibition, they are those very people who raise objections now in this House. I firmly hold that those of my hon. Friends who are raising objections in this House against this constructive scheme of the Government and are trying to make it a failure, are doing a great disservice to their province in general and their district in particular. On the other hand, their co-operation with the Government would have greatly helped in checking the irregularities, if any, on the part of the police staff. Their co-operation would have also helped this staff in overcoming the difficulties which it encounters while executing this scheme of prohibition. My hon. Friend has in the course of his speech raised this objection that this staff harasses and arrests only the poor and not the rich people who indulge in this social evil. I do not think that my hon. Friend can quote any instance of a person having been caught red-handed during the last six months and who might have been set free by the police. No such incident has taken place during the last six months. On the other hand, there are more instances on record of rich people having been prosecuted for the crime of drinking, than of the poor whose cause has been pleaded by the hon. Member from Rohtak District. However, I have no hesitation in saying this that the police staff engaged in checking smuggling and importing of liquor into the district of Rohtak, has performed its duty in a manner which deserves all praise.

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Badlu Ram has in the course of his speech pointed out that there is an "Alcohol Union" in the vicinity of our province. By using the term "Alcohol Union" he means Patiala and the East Punjab States Union. I do not deny the fact that the biggest difficulty which we are facing in making our scheme of prohibition successful is the existence of two Unions bordering our province, where some



agencies are at work to upset our plans. But in spite of these handicaps our police staff at Rohtak has totally stopped smuggling of liquor by those free-booters who used to purchase a bottle of liquor for Rs. 2/- or Rs. 2/8/- in PEPSU and sell at a higher price in the district. In this connection the work of the police employed for enforcement of prohibition has been very commendable. This is not all. The policemen in order to strengthen their hands and in executing this scheme successfully have set up Panchayats in every village of the district. In fact the whole work in connection with the enforcement of prohibition is being done very successfully by these Panchayats with the help of the police staff and the hon. Members from this district, except of course my hon. Friend who has raised this objection. It is really a matter of gratification that the police staff employed in connection with this scheme has not resorted to any force or violent methods in the district. On the other hand, the police staff has made all-out efforts to put an end to this social evil in the true spirit of "Pracharak" and "Sudharak".

Objection has also been raised that cars are being stopped at the police posts and that the people travelling in these cars are harassed. I do not really understand as to why my hon. Friend should make such remarks. For argument's sake, if a person travelling in my car or in the car of somebody else, wants to pass through this district and if his car is stopped at the police post stationed on the borders of the district and his name is entered in the register and a pass is issued to him in case he has any quantity of liquor in his possession to show it at the other post at the time of leaving the district, I do not think my hon. Friend should have any objection to it. The work of the police staff in connection with the conducting of searches at these posts has proved very beneficial as no person whether rich or poor can enter into this district with any liquor whatsoever. It has also been said that the police staff employed for enforcement of prohibition of liquor should not be permitted to stop the cars and conduct the searches of those high officials who pass that way. I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friend holding this view that the Government did not approve of this suggestion as the enforcement of this prohibition applies to all high and low, rich and poor, irrespective of any official status. It applies to His Excellency the Governor, the hon. Premier and the other hon. Ministers in the same way as it applies to a poor and a common man. I really fail to understand as to why my hon. Friend should like the Government to make this discrimination. He should not have any objection to conducting searches of a person passing through that district.

[Minister for Labour]

Here I am reminded of a Persian verse which runs as follows:—

आं रांके हिसाबे पाक अस्त, ओरा अज़ महसाचे बाक अस्त  
आं रा कि हसा बपाक असत, ओरा अज मा से बाक असत.

When a person passing through this district does not happen to be in possession of any liquor, then why should he be afraid of being searched? It is clear from this that those persons who are afraid of being searched either smuggle liquor but declare outwardly that they do not indulge in drinking or if they are addicted to it, they do so within the four walls of their rooms. However I have no hesitation in saying that this scheme of prohibition is being successfully enforced by the policemen in this district. The work which the panchayats have been doing to help in successfully working out the scheme has very recently been appreciated by the Ministers of other provinces and the representatives of the foreign press. They expressed themselves fully to the effect that the policemen with the help of local panchayats are successfully enforcing prohibition in the district. Through you, Sir, I wish to repeat once again for the information of the hon. Members that this scheme of the Government has proved successful to a great extent. With these words I would urge upon the hon. Members to pass the demand moved by the hon. Finance Minister, and not to pay any attention towards the objections raised by some of the hon. Members.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** The question may now be put, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,330 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Police.

*The motion was carried.*

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,910 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,910 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural) : Sir, I want to speak on this demand. On page 29 of the Supplementary Estimates you will find an item relating to the organisation of the work of iron and steel distribution in the East Punjab.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot discuss the whole scheme of steel distribution.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I want to bring this fact to the notice of Government that the work of the distribution of iron and steel is not being properly done in the province.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot discuss that because in the demand there is a mention of steel control inspectors, one assistant, three senior clerks and four junior clerks. The hon. Member can only speak to this particular establishment and not the policy of Government underlying the demand. Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,910 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

*The motion was carried.*

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EDUCATION.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :  
I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,65,460 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Education.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,65,460 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Education.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I want to say something about item (1) B of demand No. 7, given at page 30 of the Supplementary Estimates. This item of

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Rs. 6,28,690 covers the increase in expenditure on Government Arts Colleges. I hope you remember, Sir, that only a few days back, the hon. Premier stated on the floor of the House that the Government deemed itself responsible for the encouragement and spread of higher education. You are also aware of the fact, Sir, that after the partition, the problem of higher education became a very difficult one, since most of our denominational institutions were in West Punjab. In the United Punjab, Sir, these institutions used to have thousands of students on their rolls. It was then not necessary for the Government to shoulder the burden of University education, since there was no dearth of educationists and munificent people to help the private colleges. If experience was supplied by the former, funds came in constantly from the latter. Sir, our Province was really fortunate in producing great lovers of education—people who were willing to consecrate their whole lives to the cause of education. They made great personal sacrifices to see that the educational institutions started by them, may live, grow and flourish. But, Sir, things have changed now. These institutions are lost to us for ever. Moreover the people of this province are not now as prosperous as they used to be. So it is very necessary, Sir, that the Government should now pay more attention to higher education than before. Gone are the days when people did not feel happy at the opening of Government Colleges, because they regarded them as the nurseries of anti-national elements, and thought it necessary to start private institutions by spending crores of rupees and dedicating their whole lives, absolutely unaided by the Government. Today they know that the Government is their own and so naturally they expect some aid from it. I do not see any reasons, Sir, why our Government should spend so much on Government Colleges and give no aid to other institutions.

**Mr. Speaker :** The item under discussion relates to Government Arts Colleges. If the hon. Member wants to criticize the policy of the Government in regard to denominational institutions, he is not in order.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Sir, it is far from my intention to suggest that Government Colleges should be closed. What I want to point out is that the amount spent on them, could have been spent in a better way.

**Mr. Speaker :** I may inform the hon. Member that there is a great difference when a supplementary demand is under discussion and when a

budget demand for the coming year is before the House. In the former case, discussion is confined to the particular items under the demand while in the latter, the policy of the Government can be discussed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I want to submit, Sir, that while voting on the supplementary demands, I am within my rights to point out whether money has been spent properly or not or that a certain sum could have been spent in a better way. I submit, Sir, that while discussing the supplementary demands, it becomes necessary to criticize the propriety of a particular item of expenditure or the manner in which a certain sum of money has been spent.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member thinks it necessary to point this out, he would do well to defer it till the time when the demand in respect of education comes before the House. At that time he can say all that he wants to say now.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I want to submit, Sir.....

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member continue his speech in spite of the ruling given by you ?

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Sir, I would request you to listen to what I am going to say and then give your ruling. So far as its relevancy is concerned, I want to submit again.....

**Mr. Speaker :** There can be no arguments as to relevancy. I have ruled that the hon. Member can only discuss Government Arts Colleges. He cannot say that the Government should encourage education by giving grants to denominational institutions. That is irrelevant.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I was saying, Sir, that the manner in which the Government is spending on its Arts and Science Colleges.....

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not bring in Science Colleges.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I want to submit, Sir, that the Government should not spend as much on these colleges, as it has been doing in the past but should effect a saving from this item of expenditure. Now that the expenditure has already been incurred, we have to vote this additional grant but we want that at least in future so much expenditure should not be incurred in connection with the Government Arts Colleges.

Sir, I would like to say something about the Government Colleges. I would submit that the students of the Government colleges had joined the R. S. S. movement in our province. Many students of the Government colleges were arrested.



**Mr. Speaker :** I will not allow the hon. Member to discuss Science Colleges because they do not concern the demand under discussion.

**Master Gurbanta Singh** (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, in the United Punjab a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs was made in the budget in March 1947 for Harijan welfare. After the partition of the province, the East Punjab Government ear-marked Rs. 8 lakhs in November 1947. The East Punjab Government appointed a committee which formulated a scheme relating to the welfare of Harijan students. This scheme was ready on the 28th December 1947. Unfortunately, this scheme was not put in operation and thus no expenditure was incurred by the Government for the welfare of Harijan students. The Government has now decided to implement this scheme and intend to put into operation with effect from 1st October, 1948. I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the fact that last year also the Government made a provision of Rs. 23 lakhs in the budget for the welfare of backward Sikh and Harijan students. The scheme envisaged so many concessions to the students on the rolls of recognised schools and affiliated colleges, but no such concessions were ultimately given to these students. Amongst the Harijan students who studied in various schools, about 70 or 80% in all got concession of remission of tuition fee, but now all such concessions have been withdrawn. In the district of Jullundur, about two hundred students had to discontinue their studies on account of the withdrawal of these concessions. The school and college authorities even refused to grant stipends to these students which were given by the Government. The result was that these poor students could not carry on their studies on account of financial difficulties. Moreover, according to the recommendations of the committee the stipends had to be given from 3rd primary class but the Government has decided to extend these stipends from the 9th class. The Government issued instruction to the heads of all schools for the remission of the tuition fees of Harijans and poor students. But I am sorry to say that these instructions have not been carried out by the school and college authorities. When we approached the school authorities in this behalf, they came up with their excuse that the classes had already been formed and the concessions given to the poor students. In these circumstances, they pleaded their inability to disturb the order and grant concessions to the Harijan students. We requested that Harijan students should be given priority in the matter of remission of fees and that could be done by the cancellation of such orders in case of other students. But I am sorry to say that our requests



were turned down. It is evident that the Harijan students have not got a fair deal. The instructions of the Government are in fact honoured more in their breach rather than in their observance. Apart from this, I know of cases in which the school authorities are insisting upon Harijan students to get their bonafides duly attested by some magistrate. This is causing great hardship to the Harijan students, as they cannot undergo this difficult process of going to the courts to establish their identity. The interests of Harijan students are entirely ignored in the privately-managed schools. In Khalsa High School, Kalra, there were about 151 Harijan students and I asked the authorities to remit the tuition fees of Harijan students but my persuasions had little effect. I would therefore inform the Government that this Harijan Welfare Scheme has not ameliorated the lot of Harijan students, although it has been put into operation with effect from 1st October 1948. The crux of the problem is that the instructions of the Government are not rigidly followed in the educational institutions. The Government may feel proud to claim that efforts are being made to uplift the backward classes, but I may inform the Government that no real benefit is accruing to the backward class of people. Moreover, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that according to the scheme, stipends were to be awarded to the students from the 9th class to M.A. class, but I am sorry to say that such concession is not extended to the science and law students. I do not understand why science and law students have been excluded from the benefit of this scheme. I would urge the Government to make provision for such students also as I understand that these poor students have already lodged a strong protest against this invidious distinction. The East Punjab Government should persuade the Government of India to allot more funds for this purpose. In case it is not done the East Punjab Government should bear this additional expenditure for extending concessions to the science and law students. I would also point out that the students in the primary classes have not been given any concessions under this scheme. They must also be included. As the scheme is in operation from 1st October, 1948, the students should get the benefit of remission of fee from retrospective effect. If this is not done I will be forced to come to the conclusion that the Harijan Welfare Scheme of the Government has been nothing but a farce. The Government should inform all schools and colleges that if Harijans are not provided with these facilities, their recognition would be cancelled. The hon. Premier was pleased to say that if an institution did not observe this rule, its aid would be stopped. I may point out that there are certain schools which receive no aid from the Government. The only way of ensuring the observance of

[Master Gurbanta Singh]

this rule is to cancel the recognition of the institution which does not follow it. The Government should take effective steps to ensure that the amount provided in the demand under discussion is spent for the real benefit of Harjans.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,65,460 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Education.

*The motion was carried.*

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MEDICAL

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,500/- be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Medical.

*The motion was carried.*

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AGRICULTURE

**Minister for Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,12,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,12,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words about item No. 8 viz. scheme for improvement of cotton in the sub-mountain districts of East Punjab, on page 60 of the Supplementary Estimates and items 11, 13 and 14 appearing on page 61.

**Mr. Speaker :** Begin with item 8 first.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Items 11, 13 and 14 relate to manures. Let me first take up item No. 8 relating to improvement of cotton.

After the partition of the province there is acute shortage of long staple cotton in the country. Crores of rupees are being spent on importing it from abroad. The amount which the Government is spending for the improvement of cotton is not only proper but I would suggest that larger amount should be spent for this purpose. Our projects for production of electricity are going to be completed soon and the future of our province is very bright. I wish that we should improve the production of staple cotton, so that when electric energy is available, we may set up textile mills in the province. By doing so, we shall not only be benefiting our province, but will also do a service to India. In this respect, we are not in a worse position than Pakistan. We are rather better placed than them. I hope that the Minister-in-Charge and the Director of Agriculture, who is serving our province in missionary spirit, will give due thought to my suggestion.

Then, Sir, I take the case of items 11, 13 and 14 relating to manure. There is shortage of food in our country. To produce more food, we need good manure. If we work in this direction, with the necessary speed, we shall be doing service to the whole country. I hope that the hon. Minister will be prepared to spend even larger amount for the manufacture of manures. I wish to point out in this connection that due to shortage of wood-fuel in our province, useful manure is being used as fuel and our province is suffering heavy damage. I suggest that like the consolidation of holdings the use of compost may also be made obligatory. To check the decrease in fertility of land, it is essential to use organic manure. Thousands of tons of ground-nut cake, which is a very useful organic manure, are exported to other provinces every year. Due to want of its consumption in our province, I had to send a large quantity of ground-nut cakes to Messrs Walchand Hira Chand of Bombay last year. When other provinces spend so much money for obtaining this manure, why should we not avail of it ourselves? It is a pity that we have to sell such a useful thing in the markets of Bombay and Calcutta. Along with ammonium sulphate we should use ground-nut cakes also as manure in our fields. The use of ammonium sulphate alone does harm to the land and reduces its fertility. If ground-nut cake is mixed with ammonium sulphate it becomes a very good manure.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, item number 8 which is under consideration relates to Desi cotton and has nothing to do with long staple cotton. I think it would be better if hon. members express their views about the better variety of cotton during discussion in the Demand for Agriculture. As

[Minister for Development]

for the question of manure it may be pointed out that more subsidy is being paid now than ever before. Previously the subsidy given by Government amounted to 20 per cent of expenditure but now ever since I have taken charge of the Department it has been raised to 95 per cent.

Next comes the suggestion regarding use of ground-nut cake as a manure. I shall certainly put this suggestion before the experts of my Department for examination and in case it is approved we shall try to adopt it.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,12,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*

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CIVIL WORKS

**Minister for Finance** ( The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt ) :  
I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,38,150 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Civil Works.

*The motion was carried.*

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STATIONERY AND PRINTING

**Minister for Finance :** I beg to move —

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,30,940 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

*The motion was carried.*

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MISCELLANEOUS

**Minister for Finance :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,83,020 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Miscellaneous.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,83,020 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Miscellaneous.

#### GURDWARA AT NANGAL.

**Pandit Mohan Lal** (Una, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 20,000 on account of grant-in-aid to the Gurdwara Committee at Nangal for the construction of the Gurdwara which was burnt in riots, be omitted.

Sir, I have the deepest respect and regard for all places of worship.

**Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :** No doubt.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not interrupt; let the hon. Member proceed with his speech.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** But we cannot be oblivious of the fact that the public revenues are a sacred trust with us and we should not spend this money for these places. It is possible that when I say this some of my opponents will dub me a communalist.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** You certainly are.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** But I do not hesitate to say that the circumstances in which this demand is being made clearly show that the Government is out to foster communalism in this Province. It means to spend the amount in question for pleasing a particular community. I tell them that an action of this kind on their part is very much uncalled for and not consistent with the principles of our State. We are going to have a democratic and a Secular State which has nothing to do with any community or religion. It must be an important State which does not espouse the cause of any particular form of faith. If it does not do that it will become a theocratic State like that of Pakistan. But that is certainly not what we are aiming at hon. Members will recall that during discussions on Draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly it was decided that the State should not spend anything on religious instruction in educational institutions in the country. Obviously it was done so, because it was thought that the religion was the affair of the individual and not of the State. Moreover there are so many religions in India that it would not be possible for the Government to meet the demands of

[Pandit Mohan Lal]

so many Gurdwaras, temples and mosques. Take the case of Sanatanists alone who form only a part of the Hindus and are said to worship 33 crores of Gods and Goddesses. This means that they require 33 crore temples for their use and that is not all so far as Hindus are concerned. We shall have to please Arya Samajis, Dev Samajis, Brahm-Samajis, Radha Swamis and scores of other sects. If we begin to placate every one of the communities I think the whole of our revenue will be spent on Gurdwaras, mosques and temples. Sir, we should certainly not create a bad precedent by spending money on a Gurdwara. The House will recall that during the days of United Punjab when money was wanted for repairs of the Badshahi Mosque at Lahore a regular Act called the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Act was passed by the Government of the day and the cess was levied only on Muslims and not on members of any other community. The Government of that time which felt that it represented all communities did not think it advisable to spend money from its funds for the benefit of any particular community and imposed a tax on Muslims for the interests of the Muslims. Such a spirit is needed here now after the partition more than ever before because we have finally decided to establish a Secular State.

It is strange to find that money is being spent by the Government because some people say that a Gurdwara has been burnt.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** Yes, you people burnt it.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** The Government yields to any person who threatens it with a Morcha. Government out of fear from some quarters sanctioned money for building this Gurdwara.

The charge that the Gurdwara was set on fire through my connivance, levelled against me by the hon. Member is most unjust and irresponsible.

**Mr. Speaker :** Were these words used by the hon. member ? If so, I think he should withdraw.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** I withdraw under your instructions.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir, I am not so depraved a Hindu as would do such a mean thing.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** He may say anything, Sir. But he is the most bigoted and communal-minded person.



**Mr. Speaker :** No reflection on any Member, please.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** The fact is that the hon. member who has said these irresponsible words himself believes neither in Sikhism nor in anything else.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** Sir, the hon. Member has used most objectionable words namely that Sardar Joginder Singh Mann is devoid of the spirit of Sikhism. He should withdraw them.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I know whether these words were used by the hon. Member?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir, I got angry on the provocative words used by the hon. Member. So it was under provocation that I used those words which I now withdraw. The fact of the matter is this. According to the Government this Gurdwara was burnt during the riots. It has also been stated that the Gurdwara is an important place of pilgrimage. Now both these statements are nothing but lies.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the hon. Member withdraw the word 'laghav'? It is unparliamentary.

**Minister For Home and Revenue :** He should be shown some concession.

**Mr. Speaker :** No concession can be shown to any Member in this respect.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir, what I mean is that these statements are not correct and facts are not like that. Item (ii) in the Supplementary Estimates is stated as 'Grant in aid to the Gurdwara Committee at Nangal for the construction of the Gurdwara which was burnt during riots.' The second wrong statement is, "It is an important place of pilgrimage." The fact, however, is that at Nangal in Tehsil Una, a Hindu Rajput gave a piece of his land in 1946 for the construction of the Gurdwara. The people of the place built a small mud-hut with straw-roof on that place, which could not have cost more than two hundred rupees. Unfortunately, either through the mischief of somebody or through some mishap the Gurdwara caught fire on the 5th June, 1948 and its straw roof was burnt. The mud walls are intact even now. Thus the maximum loss cannot be more than twenty rupees. Now can any honest person justify this demand, under such circumstances? The persons who are feeling so much perturbed over my opposition would have done well to collect funds privately for this purpose and the Gurdwara could be built like that. I would also have contributed my little bit towards such a fund; but this burden ought not to have been thrown on the poor people of the Province.

**Minister For Public Works :** The hon. Member is feeling so much perturbed over a pie, that will perhaps fall to his share, out of his sum ; how can he pay ten rupees or more ?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** You, Sir, will agree with me that this demand is unjust. This Gurdwara could well be built out of 'uper wali amdani' (extra income) such as that of allowances got by the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should use polished language.

**Minister For Home and Revenue :** The Hon. Member has not withdrawn the expression 'uper wali amdani' which is entirely unfounded.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** The extra income is that income which the Ministers earn apart from their salaries.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not a source of income. It is actual expense incurred by them on their journeys.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** I can explain this phrase further.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not want explanation.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** The Ministers charge ten annas a mile when they themselves travel in car and four annas a mile when the car comes back empty after leaving them at a certain destination. Now these six annas a mile are the extra income of the Ministers.

I admit, Sir, that I am a religious minded person and I have a great respect for all religious institutions. But I am sorry to say that the hon. Prime Minister has included this demand in the Budget on account of the agitation of a set of people. I would have been very glad if this sum of twenty thousand rupees had been spent for the uplift of the poor Sikhs and the labourers. My objection, however, to this demand is that the Government of this deficit Province has taken upon itself the responsibility of a new type of expenditure. Besides, so many Mandirs, Mosques and Gurdwaras are built by the public and the Government does not pay anything for them. I am at a loss to understand why our Government is showing so much sympathy for this particular Gurdwara. I therefore, submit that the hon. Members of this House should consider the matter dispassionately and not under the influence of sentiments. This poor Province of ours is unable to bear such burdens. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration—motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 20,000/- on account of grant-in-aid to the Gurdwara Committee at Nangal for construction of the Gurdwara which was burnt in the riots, be omitted.

**Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*):** They say that one who swears over and over again is not sure of the honesty of his statement. So I do not know why my hon. Friend has so often made use of the word 'honest' in the course of his speech.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Only because I have lost faith in the honesty of the hon. Premier.

**Premier :** Sir, I wish to narrate in detail the incidents which necessitated the grant of twenty thousand rupees to the Gurdwara. In the beginning of June 1948 I received a report to the effect that the Gurdwara in Nangal had been set on fire. It is extremely regrettable that in Punjab such things can happen even in these days. I ordered for an inquiry to be instituted immediately. At the end of June I went to Nangal myself. My hon. Friend was there.

**An hon. Member :** Which Friend ?

**Premier :** The hon. Member who has just objected to the amount being granted to the Gurdwara. It was his constituency. I saw the condition of the Gurdwara. Not only were the walls and the roof badly damaged but Guru Granth Sahib was also burnt. My learned Friend admitted that the Gurdwara was set on fire by the Hindus but it was because a Hindu girl was mishandled by the Granthi and his friends. While on my way to Bhakra we met some Sikh friends and asked them about this unhappy episode. They told us and in fact convinced us that the girl was not mishandled by the Granthi and his friends. They, in fact, rescued her from a contractor who has since been turned out. I asked my learned Friend that he should let us know the names of those who were responsible for burning the Gurdwara. It was his constituency. He might be knowing the culprits. At that time the Hoshiarpur case was being heard. It was decided by certain elements that when I went to Nangal a public demonstration should be held against me and people should be told not to attend the meeting. The atmosphere was surcharged with communal feelings and in order to pacify them, I promised to get the Gurdwara built at Government cost. The decision was not made under any threat whatsoever but in order to ease the communal tension in Hoshiarpur District at that time. It has been objected to by some hon. Members.

[Premier]

They say that ours is a Secular State and that we should not extend any help to religious places. But here the question is not of help to religious places but of maintenance of law and order. Passions and feelings had run high and in order to bring them to normal the right thing must be done. I cannot understand how the question of Secular State comes into the picture. Is it not the duty of Secular State to see that people of all religions live side by side peacefully? It has been pointed out that the tax imposed for Badshahi Masjid was realised from Muslims only. But I should make it clear that, in fact, a grant of several lakhs was also given by the Government of India out of the Government treasury which belongs to all the communities. At that time I said that no tax should be imposed upon Muslims alone, and that subscription should be raised to which we would also contribute. I have respect in my heart for every place of worship. Nothing of communalism is involved in matters of religion. I consider it my duty to help a Gurdwara, not in spite of my being a Hindu, but because I am a Hindu. There is nothing bad in making a provision for building the Gurdwara in this particular case, in order to re-establish amity and good relations amongst people. If at any other place any temple or Gurdwara is damaged in that manner I shall be willing to have that temple or Gurdwara built at Government cost in similar circumstances. By doing so we will be showing mutual respect to all religions. This does not in any manner mean communalism, because communalism is different from true religion which we must all respect. It has been said that the Gurdwara at Nangal is not an important place of pilgrimage. It was built by a Rajput. The Rajput who built it was a noble man. And all praise be to him who helped in the erection of this Gurdwara. Once it was built the place acquired importance. This is a question of opinion. To those in Nangal it is as important as any other place. I am sorry to note that communalism has taken such an acute form in this particular area. Some Sikh officers have been given a bad name not so much because of anything bad on their part as officers but simply because they happen to be Sikhs. The pity of it is that those who accuse these officers are not able to furnish any proof in support of their accusations. To give help in this case is not anything communal. It is only to improve the feelings that have run high.

This does not in any way mean communalism. Communalism has been misunderstood by people. It really ill behoves my hon. Friends to indulge in such talks. If the Government makes a provision for constructing a Gurdwara, such a measure does not smack of communalism.

We did not do it for pleasing anybody but simply because the fire had destroyed the Gurdwara and the Holy Granth Sahib was damaged by fire. Moreover the roof of this Gurdwara had been burnt and the walls had collapsed. Let me make this point clear to the hon. Members that whatever I did in this connection, I did it after realizing my duty and I take the entire responsibility upon my shoulders. I did so, not because I was afraid of any body. But in spite of all this there are people who want to exploit the situation and thus create communal tension. I may assure the House that I will employ all the force I command to put an end to any communal trouble.

It has been asked why we did not contribute for the construction of this Gurdwara out of our so-called "extra income." This point was raised by an hon. Member who happens to be a pleader and who has practised law. Perhaps the hon. Member thinks that it is possible to make extra income by violating the law. After all what does he mean by this "extra income?" He tried to explain it by saying that we are making earning over and above our salaries by charging the T.A. at the rate of annas -/10/- per mile while travelling in our cars and annas -/4/- per mile when the cars return empty. This difference of annas -/6/- has been described as our "extra income?" I am really surprised to hear this argument from an hon. Member who happens to be a pleader. He ought to have raised this point after properly thinking over it. However let me make this clear that under the Act of Legislature we are entitled to charge annas -/10/- per mile whether we travel by our cars or our cars return empty. But we realized that this system involved much expenditure. Therefore we unanimously agreed to reduce the rate by annas -/6/- per mile when the cars return empty. We are not making earnings in addition to our salaries. On the other hand we have reduced our travelling allowance. I wish to make it clear to my hon. Friends that travelling allowance is not a source of income. It really ill-behoves my hon. Friends to make such remarks. I know it full well that some of my hon. Friends charge 1st class travelling allowance though they travel in Inter or Third class. Here I cannot help saying this and I make bold to submit that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others. I hope my hon. Friend who has raised such objections will not get offended.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** On a point of order, Sir. I would request the hon. Premier who is the Leader of the House and Premier of the province not to repeat these insinuations.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** There are honest people also and everybody is not dishonest.



**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** He has attacked only those who are dishonest.

**Premier :** I am very thankful to the lady Member. I will not repeat them. I have been made to refer to this "extra income." I had to reply the allegation brought against us by my hon. Friend.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** On a point of order, Sir. It really pains me to hear the hon. Premier making such remarks. It pains me not because he has made some insinuation against the hon. Members but because it is not in keeping with his dignity as Premier and Leader of the House make such remarks.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is applicable to both sides.

**Premier :** I have been asked not to use these words. If my words have injured the feelings of the lady Member or any other member, I withdraw these words.

**Master Gurbanta Singh :** On a point of information, Sir. May I know from the hon. Premier whether if some member walks from his constituency to Simla on foot, he will be entitled to charge 1st class T. A. ?

**Mr. Speaker :** You will even then be entitled to 1st class travelling allowance, if you so choose, according to rules.

**Premier :** I would request the hon. Member who wants this information from me, to study the rules. If he is entitled to it under the Act, he can draw it. It is not within my power to change the rules.

**Mr. Speaker :** There is a difference of opinion now.

**Premier :** I wish to submit that some of my hon.....(*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** No interruptions please. I would remind hon. Members that I have to apply guillotine at 5-45 p.m.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Apply it just now. (*Laughter*)

**Mr. Speaker :** I will apply it in the case of those who are interrupting. (*Renewed laughter.*)

**Premier :** Sir, I wish to submit that some of my hon. Friends suggested to me to hush up this matter by applying party whips. But I did not like to adopt this course. I told them that I want that the hon. Members should express their thoughts and views as freely as they can. I was also told that some expression of views of certain hon. Members



might injure the feelings of some hon. Members which would result in the creation of an unhealthy atmosphere in the province. Thereupon I told them that it depended upon them as to how they expressed their views and that it was up to them to refrain from indulging in such unpleasant expression. In fact they are in duty bound to give expression to their thoughts in such a way which will not injure the feelings of others. What I wish to point out is that it does not behove on the part of the hon. Members of this House to give expression of their thoughts on religious matters in such a manner. Since some remarks were made by some hon. Members, it was my bounden duty to place before the House facts justifying the expenditure incurred in this connection. I placed this matter before my colleagues and we unanimously agreed to grant funds for the construction of the Gurdwara and thus we did our duty.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. In one of the mosques in district Gurgaon cement was stored by the orders of the Government. My hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh wrote to the Government informing that in a secular State it was not in the fitness of things to store cement in a mosque. He also wrote to the Chief Secretary to this effect, who wrote to him in reply that the letter was lost. In the light of these facts may I know whether the Government is fulfilling its duty in respect of one community only or in respect of other communities as well ?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. Dr. Sahib has made two personal reflections on me. Firstly, he has alleged that I was in possession of some kind of information about this 'Gurdwara' which I purposely withheld and did not disclose. (*Voices : This has not been said.*) Or in other words, he meant that I purposely refrained from giving help in the investigation. This is absolutely wrong, Sir. I told them all the facts that were known to me, and I also tried to show them the right path.

Secondly, while making personal attack on me, the hon. Premier has alleged that though I travel in third class, I charge travelling allowance on the basis of first class fare. Sir, I might remind the hon. Premier that if I had been a person of such mentality, I would not have willingly foregone half of the compensatory allowance to which I as a Member of the House was entitled. I was the only person to make this sacrifice.

*(Cries of order, order)*

**Mr. Speaker :** That was a general remark and it did not refer to the hon. Member in particular.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir,

*(Cries of order, order)*

I am going to resume my seat but I cannot help reciting this couplet.

हम आह भी करते हैं तो हो जाते हैं बदनाम  
वह कतल भी करते हैं तो चर्चा नहीं होता ।  
ਹਮ ਆਹ ਭੀ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਤੋ ਹੋ ਜਾਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਬਦਨਾਮ  
ਵੋਹ ਕਤਲ ਭੀ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਤੋ ਚਰਚਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਤਾ ।

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Premier is willing to reply to my question ?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On a point of order, Sir. When the hon. Premier has delivered his speech there cannot be any more speeches on that point and I move—

That the question be now put.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the item of Rs. 20,000/- on account of grant-in-aid to the Gurdwara Committee at Nangal for construction of the Gurdwara which was burnt in riots be omitted.

*The motion was lost*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is

That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,65,83,020 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Miscellaneous.

*The motion was carried.*

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*The following Demands were then put from the chair and adopted.*

That a Supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,48,860 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Advances not bearing Interest.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,84,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing Interest.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,01,230 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31 March, 1949, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 45,11,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Forests.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of General Administration.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Public Health.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Veterinary.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Industries.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Buildings and Roads Establishment Charges.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

That token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1949, in respect of Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes outside the Revenue Account.

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Friday, 25th March 1949.*

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# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Friday, 25th March 1949.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE SYSTEM OF GRANTS TO LOCAL BODIES FOR EDUCATION

**\*854. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed to review the system of grants to Local Bodies for Vernacular Education and examine the question of taking over the administration and control of local body schools has submitted its report. If so, the main recommendations thereof?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** Not as yet. Reply to the latter part of the question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that a committee was appointed for making recommendations regarding grants to Local Bodies for vernacular education?

**Premier :** In your question you have asked whether the committee has submitted its report the reply is that no report has been received so far.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Committee been asked to submit its report within a particular time?

**Premier :** I preside over that committee and am myself very anxious to expedite the work but there are certain limitations because information on so many points has to be collected and it takes time. Two or three meetings of the committee have been held.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Could you kindly give us the names of the members of the Committee?

**Premier :** I do not remember the names but if the hon. Member wants this information he may give notice of a question.

OPENING OF RURAL DISPENSARIES IN THE PROVINCE

**\*874. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of rural dispensaries sanctioned or opened by the Government during the year 1948-49;
- (b) the places at which such dispensaries have been opened, if any;
- (c) the places from where applications for opening rural dispensaries were received by the Government ;
- (d) what action if any does the Government propose to take on these applications ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Rural dispensaries—19 sanctioned, 2 opened. Subsidized dispensaries—18 sanctioned but none opened during 1948-49.
- (b) Rural dispensaries have been opened at :-
  - (i) Village Katani Kalan, District Ludhiana.
  - (ii) Village Chak Sherewala, District Ferozepore.
- (c) Applications were received from the following places for opening rural or subsidized dispensaries :-
  1. Village Adampur Mandi, District Hissar.
  2. Village Fatehpur Baloch, District Gurgaon.
  3. Village Shakrolapur, District Ambala.
  4. Village Purkhali, Tehsil Rupar, District Ambala.
  5. Village Gurdiara, P. O. Baijnath, District Kangra.
  6. Village Dheera, Tehsil Palampur, District Kangra.
  7. Village Kotla, Tehsil Dera, District Kangra.
  8. Village Kamaidevi, District Hoshiarpur.
  9. Village Jaspalan, District Ludhiana.
  10. Village Khatra Ghoharni, District Ludhiana.
  11. Village Myalgela, District Jullundur.
  12. Village Veerowal, District Amritsar.
  13. Village Kairon, District Amritsar.
  14. Village Zail, District Gurdaspur.
  15. Village Raowal, District Gurdaspur.
  16. Village Aulakh, District Gurdaspur.
- (d) Government proposes to open Rural and Subsidized dispensaries at certain places with due regard to the requirements of certain districts by way of completing the 1925 programme of rural medical relief by providing one dispensary for a mean of 100 sq. miles area and 30,000 population.



**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason why the Government opened only two rural dispensaries whereas 19 were originally sanctioned ?

**Premier :** Rural and subsidized dispensaries were to be opened under the post-war development scheme. Previously the Central Government had approved this scheme but in the early part of the year 1948-49 Government of India informed us that only those post war schemes should be proceeded with which were of immediate reproductive nature and others should be postponed. Now we have received the sanction of the Central Government for the post war development schemes for 1949-50 and after April 1949, we will see how many dispensaries can be opened.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will those dispensaries for which applications are pending with the Government be opened during the coming year ?

**Premier :** Applications for new dispensaries have been received but how many dispensaries are to be opened in a particular district will depend on the new programme and the number of dispensaries already existing in that district. In due course Civil Surgeons of the districts will consult the district boards and recommend as to where the dispensaries are to be opened and then the Government will make a final decision ?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** In cases where recommendations of the district boards have been received will dispensaries be opened there ?

**Premier :** I have already replied to this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How much grant was to be received from the Government of India for want of which the Rural dispensaries which were sanctioned by the government could not be opened ?

**Premier :** All post war development schemes are to be submitted to the central government for their sanction but in this case their sanction could not be received and so the dispensaries were not opened.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will Ayurvedic dispensaries be also opened in the province ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is altogether a different question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sarma :** It has been stated in the reply that 19 rural dispensaries were sanctioned but only two were opened. May I know if the Government of India agreed to the opening of only two and it did not agree to the opening of the remaining 17 ?

**Premier :** I may tell the hon. Member that when a scheme is sent to the Government of India we start work on it in anticipation of the sanction, in this case also we started with the opening of these Rural dispensaries and we had opened two when the information was received that sanction had been refused so we stopped there. .

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In what proportion would the central Government give us money for these dispensaries ?

**Premier :** The arrangement is that whatever amount the Central Government gives to the province for the post war development schemes the provinces are required to contribute an equal amount for that purpose but in the case of the East Panjab and the West Bengal this rule does not apply. They will give us a fixed amount and how that amount is to be distributed to the different departments has been left to us to decide.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can not the provincial Government open any dispensaries without the sanction of the Government of India ?

**Premier :** We can open dispensaries without the sanction of the Government of India but that we can do from our ordinary budget. As we had no money in the ordinary budget we put this scheme under the post war development plan for which we are to receive money from the Centre and such schemes have to be submitted to the Central Government for their approval.

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GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DISCHARGED FOR PARTICIPATING  
IN RASHTRIYA SANGH, AKALI AND COMMUNIST  
ACTIVITIES IN PROVIVCE

**\*893. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Government servants discharged for participating in Rashtriya Sanghs' activities ;
- (b) the number of Government servants discharged for participating in Akali Dals' activities ;
- (c) the number of Government servants discharged for participating in communist activities ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) 14.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 1.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Premier that the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur has been taking active part in the Akali activities ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Any hon. Minister can refuse to answer a supplementary question. Besides, this does not arise out of the question.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether it is a fact that while strict action has been taken against the sympathisers of the Sangh movement, nothing has been done against the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur who actively participated in Akali politics ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is again a repetition of the same question although in a different form.

**Shri Virendra :** Is the Government satisfied that no government servant has been taking any part whatsoever in the Akali politics ?

**Premier :** I have already stated that no government servant has been discharged for participating in Akali Dal activities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the posts, if he is not prepared to divulge the names of the incumbents, of officers whose services have been terminated on this account ?

**Premier :** If the hon. Member gives notice, the necessary information will be collected.

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**DISCHARGE OF WATER FROM SABRAI BRANCH OF THE  
UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL DURING OCTOBER  
AND NOVEMBER, 1948.**

**\*625. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) what is the authorised discharge of water of Sabrai Branch of the Upper Bari Doab Canal ;
- (b) what was the actual discharge in this canal during summer 1948 and during the months of October and September, 1948.
- (c) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that the canal authorities allowed less water than due to flow during the Warabandi of October and November, 1948 in the distributary; if so, the reasons for the same ;
- (d) If the reply to (c) above be in the affirmative what steps if any, does the Government propose to take to avoid the recurrence of such diminution in water ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Authorised discharge of Sabrai Branch is :-  
Kharif            970 Cs.  
Rabi              506 Cs.
- (b) The actual discharge varied according to the supplies available in the river and the state of demand. The statement showing actual supplies during September, 1948 and October, 1948 is placed on the table.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) The supplies that were given to this Branch were not less than its due in any season. The actual water given to any branch depends upon the supply available in the river, order of the claim of the Branch in the rotational programme and the state of demand depending upon weather and climatic conditions.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** From the statement laid on the table it appears that during the month of October on the dates 11th to 17th, only half the quantity of water flowed as compared with the quantity indented. In view of this may I ask whether Government is aware of the fact, that this is the month, when seeds are sown by the zamindars and water is needed most but actually the quantity has been reduced to half?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. member is giving information instead of seeking it.

DISCHARGE OF WATER FROM THE VARIOUS DISTRIBUTARIES  
IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1949 IN  
AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*626. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the main canals along with the names of the distributaries and minors which irrigate the land in the Amritsar District;
- (b) authorised discharge of each of them;
- (c) the demand of water indented by the canal authorities for each of them during summer 1948 as well as during the Warabandi of October and November 1948;
- (d) actual quantity of water allowed in each of them during the period referred to in part (c) above?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a), (b), (c) and (d). Statements are laid on the table <sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The statement which has been laid on the table, indicates that in the months of November and December, the discharge in the distributaries has been only 30 to 45 per cent. Will the hon. Minister please state the reasons for this state of affairs?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is again an expression of opinion.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I want to know the reason for this reduced discharge of water.

**Minister :** There was greater shortage of water in the river during these months.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** From the statement it appears that water was supplied to Pakistan as well. May I know whether equitable distribution of water was made?

**Minister :** Distribution of water between Pakistan and India was made in accordance with an agreement. No undue favour nor any disfavour was shown in the execution of that agreement.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If the supply of water was short in the river, then may I know whether this shortage had its effect on the canals running from India to Pakistan or only the canals in India were affected adversely?

**Minister :** Yes, the discharge of water in canals running into Pakistan, was also affected.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How much difference did it mean to the canals running to Pakistan and those flowing in India?

**Minister :** Ratable.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister please tell us as to how long will this shortage of water supply on our side continue, so that we could form an idea of the time for which we shall have to endure these hardships?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member begins to argue while asking for information.

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**TOTAL CULTIVABLE AREAS OF LAND IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR  
AND THE AREA ACTUALLY IRRIGATED BY CANAL  
WATER DURING 1948**

**\*627. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

(a) total cultivable area of land together with different kinds thereof in the district of Amritsar during the year 1947-48;

(Sardar Sajjan Singh)

- (b) the total cultivable area of land with different kinds in Tarn Tarn, Patti, Ajnala and Amritsar Tehsils during 1947-48;
- (c) the area of cultivable land under the command of the canals in each Tehsil during 1948; (ii) the total area actually irrigated by the canal water in each of the Tehsils.
- (d) whether it is a fact that a less than the total area under the command was irrigated, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) what steps if any, does the Government propose to take for the irrigation of the whole area under the command of the canals ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a), (b) & (c) Statements are laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

(d) First part—Yes.

Second part—Total commanded area is neither intended nor possible to be irrigated every year.

AMOUNT SPENT ON REPAIRS OF CANAL DISTRIBUTARY  
IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT IN 1948

**\*628. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) What was the total amount set apart for the repairs and the "Bhal Safai" of each of the canal distributories and its branches (minors) in Amritsar District from 1.1.48 to 31.12.48.
- (b) the amount actually spent over each distributary and the canal minor during the period referred to above.
- (c) whether in any case the "Bhal Safai" was done by the zamindars themselves; if so, the names of the canal minors and those of the villages whose cultivators cleaned the silt themselves;
- (d) the remuneration if any paid to the Zamindars in each case with full particulars ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) The annual maintenance and repairs estimates provide Rs. 40/- per mile per annum exclusive of Work-charged Establishment for maintenance of Distributaries and minors. In addition special estimates under special maintenance and repairs are sanctioned for special works. No separate amount is set apart for silt clearance



- (b) Details of expenditure by Distributaries and Minors are not available as the accounts are not kept by Distributaries and Minors.
- (c) The silt clearance, as a general rule, is not permitted to be done by the Zamindars; but sometimes it is allowed at the request of the Zamindars in case of small minors only where the conditions are such that the upper outlets are not adversely affected and the work is very urgently required in order to give immediate relief against short supply.
- (d) In such cases the remuneration is neither demanded nor paid. The silt clearance work is executed as in the case of water-courses.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it a fact that the discharge of water was less because the banks of the canals were not in good condition ?

**Minister :** No, that is not a fact. The banks of the canals were quite strong and in good working order.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether the hon. Minister has ever seen the banks of a canal ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Minister :** I can say that I have seen more of canals than my hon. Friend.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS

**\*629. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the Travelling Allowances drawn by each of the following Police Officers from 1-1-48 to 31-12-48 by road, air, and railway respectively.

- (i) Inspector General of Police,
- (ii) each of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, incharge of Jullundur and Ambala Divisions and
- (iii) the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma)

(i), (ii) & (iii) Statement is placed on the table.<sup>1</sup>

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know the glaring difference between the travelling allowance drawn by Chaudhri Sadhu Ram and Mr. D.C. Lal.,

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[Sardar Sajjah Singh]

particularly when the touring period of the former is less than that of the latter? May I also enquire as to what extraordinary duties had been performed by Ch. Sadhu Ram which entitled him to draw more travelling allowances?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He had to go on tours in the discharge of his official duties and for that he charged his travelling allowance.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I want to know his special activities which entitled him to charge more T.A.?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether any special instructions were issued to Chaudhri Sadhu Ram by the Government under which he had to undertake unusually large touring?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He had to undertake tours in the discharge of his official duties.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Then what are those official duties in the discharge of which he had to undertake long tours?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** No special duties had been assigned. The nature of the duties was such that Chaudhri Sadhu Ram had to do lot of touring.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But what were those activities in the performance of which he had to do more touring?

**Minister :** The hon. Member will appreciate that during those days evacuation problem was still in hand and that required him to do lot of touring.

**Chaudhari Kartar Singh :** Is it a fact that when hon. Ministers do lot of touring, the officers also follow in their footsteps?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** May I know whether Mr. D. C. Lal committed derilection of duty when he charged less travelling allowance as compared with Chaudhari Sadhu Ram?

**Minister :** No sir.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Then what is the reason that one officer draws less T. A. and the other draws more for the performance of the same set of duties?

**Minister :** There is no hard and fast measure for the performance of duties. The difference in the nature of duties is possible under different conditions. Besides, touring is done more in winter than in the summer.

### CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS POSTED ON THE BORDER

**\*630. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the Travelling Allowance drawn by the following officers from 1-1-48 to 31-12-48,

- (i) each of the Border Superintendents of Police of Amritsar and Gurdaspur District.
- (ii) each of the Deputy Superintendents and the Inspectors of the Border Police in the aforesaid districts ;
- (iii) the total cost actually borne by the Government in each of the aforesaid districts for maintaining the Police posts on the border from 1-1-48 to 31-12-48 ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

Name of District	Amount drawn by the Border Superintendents of Police	Amount drawn by the Border Deputy Superintendent of Police	Amount drawn by the Border Inspector of Police
Amritsar	S S. Sardar Ajaib Singh Rs. 93-8-0	Sardar Bachan Singh Rs. 66-14-0	L. Khan Chand Rs. 205-14-0
Gurdaspur	Nil	Shri M. G. Rishi Rs. 801-6-0	Nil

- (iii) Amritsar. Rs. 8,43,834/14/-  
Gurdaspur. Rs. 4,71,823/1/-

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I bring to your notice, Sir, that I have not received this statement.

**Minister :** It was sent to the hon. Member. If the hon. Member wants any more information, it can be supplied.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am told that the statement was supplied to the hon. Member and my office has got the acknowledgment from the hon. Member.

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**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I have received a statement in regard to parts (i) and (ii) of the question but not in regard to part (iii).

**ABSENCE OF BRIDGES ON WESTERN JUMNA CANAL**

**\*729 Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that great inconvenience is caused to the villagers in the absence of bridges on the Western Jumna Canal at suitable places ;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to construct bridges at such places ;
- (c) whether the residents of the area have offered to meet a fair proportion of the expenses on such construction ?

**Parliamentary Seceretary :** (Sardar Narotam Singh)

- (a) No. Bridges already exist at all suitable places.
- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

**\*729 Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that there is no bridge near Tanjlu in Tahsil Jagadhri and the villagers have to cross the canal by boat which causes great inconvenience ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is covered by the reply that has been given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have any complaints been received by the Government to the effect that there are no bridges at suitable places on the canal.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The hon. Member will appreciate that if the residents of every village wish that a bridge should be constructed for them, that will mean a lot of expense. Government is satisfied that the existing bridges are catering to the needs of the villagers. If, however, any particular case is brought to our notice, we will have great pleasure in examining it.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Is the hon. Minister aware that the residents of village Kanjnu have to go round a distance of 4 miles each way to go to their fields ? That is causing great inconvenience.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an expression of opinion.

**REPRESENTATION RE BAD CONDITION OF BRIDGE OVER  
WESTERN JUMNA CANAL**

**\*730 Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Government has received any representation from

the people of Muhammadpur Majra, a village in the Sonapat Tehsil situated on the bank of the Western Jumna Canal between Khubru fall and Kailana bridge to the effect that their bridge on the canal is not fitted for the passage of bullock carts and that therefore it may be widened ;

- (b) What action, if any, does the Government propose to take over it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Sardar Narotam Singh)

(a) Yes.

- (b) No action is called for as a cart road bridge already exists about half a mile downstream of this bridge.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Do the Government realise that great inconvenience is caused to the villagers with bullock carts when they have to cross the canal ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I have already stated that a cart road bridge exists at a distance of half a mile downstream of this bridge.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the Government consider the desirability of widening this bridge in view of the fact that the cart road bridge is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away from this bridge ?

**Minister :** If this distance is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles and not  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile, the suggestion of the hon. Member is worth examining.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government considered any request from the villagers to the effect that they are prepared to pay the cost or a part of it for a bridge, if the Government is prepared to construct one ?

**Minister :** No such request has so far been made.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Government consider such a request ?

**Minister :** My hon. friend will appreciate that it is a hypothetical question. If, however, any such request is made, it will be examined.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Has the Government received any representations in which such demands have been made for the construction of bridges at proper places ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. That is a general question.

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**ARRESTS UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF S. SOHAN SINGH AND SHRI KISHORE CHAND OF BATALA.**

**\*807 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether Sardar Sohan Singh Khunda, and Shri Kishore Chand were arrested from Batala during December, 1948, under the Public Safety Act; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

First part : Yes.

Second part : They were arrested as dangerous communists; but both have since been released.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If they were arrested because they were considered to be dangerous communists, why were they released so soon?

**Minister :** They were released when it was not considered necessary to detain them any longer.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the reasons for their release?

**Premier :** When the Government were satisfied that they were no longer dangerous, they were released.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do I take it that the first information supplied to the Government that these persons were dangerous communists by the police and the C.I.D. was wrong?

**Premier :** First information was not wrong as they were released only after the Government satisfied themselves that those persons were no longer dangerous.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Were they released on the recommendation of Mian Iftikhar-ud-din?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** What is the definition, according to Government, of the term 'dangerous' and 'not dangerous'?

**Minister :** Dictionary meaning.

**ARREST OF SARDAR IQBAL SINGH SON OF MASTER HARI SINGH OF HOSHIARPUR**

**\*808 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—



- (a) the reasons for the recent arrest of Sardar Iqbal Singh son of Master Hari Singh of Hoshiarpur ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he has been arrested because his father is absconding ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Sardar Iqbal Singh son of Master Hari Singh of Hoshiarpur was arrested Under Section 3. P. P. S. A. with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the Public Safety and the maintenance of public order.
- (b) No.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Has the hon. Minister received a number of representations from Sardar Iqbal Singh stating that he has nothing to do with the communist party ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult for me to recollect the contents of any representations and I may also tell him that representations cannot always be acted upon their face value.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Minister know that the S.P. Hoshiarpur promised to release Sardar Iqbal Singh if he could tell the address of his father who is an absconder ? Was this fact mentioned by Sardar Iqbal Singh in one of his petitions ?

**Minister :** I have no knowledge. And I cannot recollect the contents of a petition which is not before me.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it one of the reasons for Sardar Iqbal Singh's arrest that his father is absconding ?

**Minister :** He has been arrested with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the Public Safety.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has so far no *motbir* recommendation of a similar nature been received by the Government in the case of Sardar Iqbal Singh as was instrumental in the release of Sardar Sohan Singh and Mr. Kishore Chand ?

**Minister :** I do not agree with the suggestion that the two detenues were released because of some recommendation. They gave an assurance—there is a difference between an assurance and a recommendation—that they will not behave in a manner prejudicial to public safety. No such assurance has been received about this man when one is received we will examine whether it is '*motbir*' or not.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Is the Provincial Congress Committee consulted before arresting such persons ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise out of the answer given.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Have any instances come to the notice of the Government where houses of such persons have been burnt and their relations harassed ?

**Minister :** No such instances have come to my notice.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** What are the rules or what is the criterion to judge whether an assurance is 'Motbir' or not ?

**Minister :** When an assurance is received only then it can be said whether it is 'Motbir' or not. An assurance given by Sardar Sajjan Singh can in certain cases be treated as 'Motbir'.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I once gave an assurance which was rejected without consideration.

**Minister :** We gave it full consideration but unfortunately the information he had received was wrong and the hon. Member knew only one side of the picture. I very much regret that we could not accept that.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Government prepared to constitute a committee of this House and to ask it to interview such persons in jail and report to the Government whether any innocent persons have been arrested ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is a request for a particular action.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister say whether he has received a representation from the Headmaster of the school in which Sardar Iqbal Singh reads stating that the boy has nothing to do with the communist party? What action has been taken on that representation ?

**Minister :** Headmasters have a softness for all their students and therefore their views cannot be relied upon.

PUBLICATION OF A HAND-BILL AGAINST MR. JUSTICE  
ACHHRU RAM.

**\*844. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of a hand-bill issued by Sant Bakhtawar Singh, Jathedar Akali, Hoshiarpur, Udham

Singh, Member, Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, Jathedar Hara Singh, Municipal Commissioner, Sadhara Ambala, Dasaundha Singh, Jathedar Akali Jatha, Patiala and Jathedar Jagir Singh Phaguwalla Akali Jatha, Sangrur, against Mr. Justice Achhru Ram, Judge, High Court;

- (b) whether the Government have taken any steps to find out the Press where the above referred to hand-bill was printed ;
- (c) whether the Government has taken or propose to take any action in this matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter is under enquiry yet.
- (c) The High Court has been moved to institute contempt proceedings.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** At what stage is the enquiry in the case ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We have now moved the High Court to take contempt proceedings against the persons.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any report of the enquiry made in the case been sent to the High Court ?

**Minister :** That the Government cannot do.

#### QUESTIONS NO. 848 (STARRED)

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On a point of order Sir. My point of order is with regard to question No. 848, I want to know why most of the questions are postponed when information can be easily available ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not a point of order. When the reply to a question is not ready Government can under the Rules ask for extension of time.

**Shri Virendra :** But there must be some time limit.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** If the Government does not want to give an answer to a certain question it should clearly say so. What I feel is that the Government adopts this course to avoid answering unpalatable questions on the floor of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** In certain cases replies to certain questions are not ready but the questions are printed in the list. Government then asks for postponement of that question and that question is again printed in the list of questions when the reply to it is received by my office.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** In this particular case I feel that the information could very easily be obtained from the headquarters and the question should not have been postponed.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I want to assure the hon. Member that the grant of extension of time is perfectly permissible under the rules I would further assure him that the reason for the postponement of questions is never the character of the question, namely, whether it is palatable or not and I strongly repudiate this suggestion. So far as this particular question is concerned, I can assure the House that there is nothing unpalatable about it and I will get this information as soon as possible and hope to reply it in two or three days time.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want your ruling on the point whether the Government can say no to a question which is embarrassing to them or which exposes some of their doings. My fear is that by this method of postponing questions they turn a starred question into an unstarred one.

**Mr. Speaker :** In this particular case hon. Minister is prepared to answer this question in two or three days time and so it shows that the reply is not ready. As regards the turning of a starred question into an unstarred one I can assure him that it cannot be done by any one. A starred question will remain a starred question unless I make it unstarred.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Then will this question No. 848 be called by you on some other day ?

**Mr. Speaker :** When the reply to this question is ready a copy will be sent to the Assembly Office and this question will again be printed in one of the lists.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I do not think that any postponed question has been answered so far.

**Minister :** I want to say a few words more about this practice. As a matter of fact this new practice has been introduced to enable such questions to remain as starred questions. Formerly we used to say that the reply to a certain question is not ready and that would automatically take that question out of the list of questions. Now we have introduced this system of application for extension of time so that the question may remain as a starred question and be replied on the floor of the House when the reply is ready. The fear which my hon. Friend has expressed on this score is unfounded.

**Mr. Speaker :** For the information of the hon. Member I may state that an application had been made for the extension of time with regard to question No. 852 and it was postponed but in the meanwhile the Government sent its reply and I allowed it to be put. This practice is in the interest of the hon. Members ; they can get the reply to their question on the floor of the House when it is ready.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In that case I can hope that question No. 851 will be called on a later date.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I make a submission to you Sir. The Chair was pleased to add that a starred question is not turned into an unstarred question by the Government but I may bring to your notice that during the last session I put a starred question and its reply was handed over to me through a piece of paper. This question should have reappeared on the list and answered on the floor of the House, unless of course this practice or procedure has been started from this. May I remind the hon. Minister that some time ago I had put a starred question about the Nangal Project and in that I had asked as to when the Government wanted to start the work and whether estimates, original or revised had been prepared and so on. That question was postponed and an extension of time was asked for. But then instead of that question appearing on the list of questions, I was handed over a reply of this question, just like an unstarred question.

**Minister :** Sir, may I just clarify the misunderstanding under which my hon. Friend is labouring. A procedure has been adopted with regard to the answers about lengthy questions. A copy of the reply is placed on the table of the House and an advance copy is sent to the hon. Member. But that does not mean that that question has been converted into an unstarred question.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Secretary will read out to the House, the rule which has a direct bearing on the matter of extension of time.

**Secretary :** The proviso (ii) to Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure lays down :

In case the answer to a question is not ready before the sitting of the Assembly immediately following the expiry of the period of notice, the Speaker may on such intimation by the Minister concerned extend the time for answering the question, and if the question is on the list of questions it shall not be called on that day.

The practice of the office is that all the postponed questions are included in the list for a later date.

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RESTORATION OF HOUSES BELONGING TO MUSLIM GUJARS  
IN KARNAL DISTRICT

**\*852 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Muslim Gujar of village Hartari in district Karnal had taken protection in village Narayana during the disturbances of 1947 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the houses left by them were forcibly taken possession of by certain people ;
- (c) the result of the repeated representations of these Muslim Gujar for the restoration of their houses and land ;
- (d) what action the Government is taking in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Sardar Ajit Singh)

- (a) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) The representations are being enquired into.
- (d) Instructions have been issued by the Government that Muslims who remained in the Indian Dominion should be restored their lands and other property after careful scrutiny.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any complaint was lodged with the district authorities of Karnal that when the Muslim Gujar of village Hartari had shifted during the disturbances of the last year, to an other village Narayana for protection, their houses had forcibly been taken possession of by certain people and that the same have not been restored to them despite several representations ?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** Regarding first part of the question, reply has already been given and as regards the second part instructions on the subject have been issued to the officers concerned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Minister has made a mention of general instructions, but I have asked about a specific matter, namely, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Muslim Gujar of village Hartari, who had shifted to an adjoining village for protection during the disturbance of 1947, represented to the district authorities for the restoration of their houses and land which had been illegally taken possession of by certain people ?

**Premier :** I thank the hon. Member for supplying this information.



**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether after a lapse of a long period of 18 months, this matter has been brought to the notice of the Government ?

**Minister :** Reply has already been given on that point.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact that so far as this specific case is concerned, it has come to the knowledge of the Government or the district authorities of Karnal ?

**Minister :** This question has already been replied to. It has been repeated twice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this complaint has not come to the notice of the S.P. or D.C. of Karnal ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know that when the hon. Minister is not in a position to reply, he keeps mum ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### COLLECTION OF TAXES FROM THE TENANTS BY THE LANDLORDS

**\*853. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that certain landlords in Rewari, District Gurgaon are charging property tax from their tenants ;
- (b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take in order to save the poor tenants from this extra burden ;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation in this connection ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Shri Dev Raj Sethi.)

The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to his starred Assembly Question No. 558 during the current Assembly Session.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government have received any complaint from the people of Rewari that the landlords are charging property tax from the tenants ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This query has already been replied to in supplementaries on Q. No. 558.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether Government intend to consider the desirability of taking any action to mitigate the

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

hardship of the tenants of Rewari, who have been burdened with the property tax ?

**Minister for Finance :** The remedy for this lies in the law courts. The tenants can seek redress by taking legal action in the matter.

GRANT OF ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS IN LUDHIANA

**\*879. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ludhiana Electric Power Station is over-loaded and there is very little scope to meet the demand of the public for lighting and other purposes ;
- (b) the names of persons who have been granted connections for power and lighting after August, 1947, along with the power sanctioned ;
- (c) the total number of applications for power and lighting received during the period referred to above ;
- (d) the rules of procedure, if any, adopted for granting the applications under sub-head (b) if any ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A list is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>. In addition 1621 reconnections for general supply and 59 for industrial supply have been given.
- (c) 2145 applications for general supply and 193 for industrial supply were received up to the end of January, 1949 including applications for reconnections.
- (d) Applications for new connections at Ludhiana are approved or rejected by the Government on the advice of the East Punjab Electric Power Control Board, and reconnections are allowed by the Department.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether any rules have been framed which govern the decisions of the Power Control Board ?

**Minister :** Yes. There is a procedure prescribed for the purpose.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that after the partition of the province, the rules for this Board relating to the grant of or renewal of power connections were such as to give top priority to the Essential Services, then to the refugees and last of all to local people in a town ?

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<sup>1</sup>Kept in the Library.

**Minister :** That will be a sound criterion. As a matter of fact this Board was constituted by my predecessor Chaudhri Lehri Singh. He issued certain instructions on the point. I presume the same must have been complied with by the Board.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** The statement which has been laid on the table indicates that one consumer named Shri Muni Lal Kalia, has been granted three power connections for different loads. May I know whether he comes under the category of the Essential Services, or refugees that he has been treated so liberally ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member is very much interested in this particular case, I shall collect detailed information for him, but for this he shall have to give a notice.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** The Textile Finishing and General Mills have been given a load of 22.76 K. WTs. Does the Government consider that Mill to come under the definition of Essential Services ?

**Minister :** No definition of the term Essential Services has been laid down but any service which increases the production of a commodity which cannot be regarded as non-essential should be considered to be an Essential Service.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** In Ludhiana there are quite a large number of textile mills which have been working for some time past. Does the Government know that this particular mill is a new one ?

**Minister :** I do not know the details. I have informed the hon. Member that this load is a staggered load which is available only during the night time and is considered to be surplus.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh .** Is it a fact that in Ludhiana a large number of applications were made ; and if so, what were the reasons which led the Government to give this load to this particular mill ?

**Minister :** I quite appreciate that where there is shortage of supply and demand is great, it is always very unpleasant for those who have to make selections to do that job. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that this difficulty is not likely to last long as we are having a bigger transformer and a transmission line which would be able to carry a much heavier load.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Is it a fact that the application of Pandit Muni Lal Kalia was first rejected and was subsequently approved by the hon. Minister ?

**Minister :** I have not got all the details with me. If the hon. Member is very much interested in this particular case, he might give notice and I shall collect all the available information for him. If an application was rejected once, there is nothing unusual that it should be accepted if new points come to the notice of the Government.

#### ARREST OF PATWARIES DURING THEIR STRIKE

**\*892. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some patwaries were arrested during their strike a few months ago ;
- (b) the number of those who were arrested ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the strike has since been called off ;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether the Government proposes to take any action with regard to those who are still under detention ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 117.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the reasons for which patwaries were arrested ?

**Minister :** They not only struck work when their services were badly required for the preparation of the copies of *jama bandies* for the purpose of exchange with the West Punjab Government, they resorted to illegal and highly objectionable activities. That was why they had to be arrested.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** After all there must be some reason for their resorting to go on strike. Is the Government in a position to say why did they go on strike ?

**Minister :** Interested persons wanted to exploit them for their own ends.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Were those interested persons Ministers and their henchmen ?

**Minister :** They were neither Ministers nor their supporters. They were somebody opposed to them. (*Laughter*)

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** May I point out that by asking such supplementary questions the hon. Members, in fact, spoil the case of those for whom they seem to take interest ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Sardar Sajjan, Singh :** What decision has the Government taken in regard to those who are still under detention ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member is referred to my reply to part (d).

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is it a fact that the patwaries went on strike because their demand for higher pay and allowances was not acceded to by the Government ?

**Minister :** That was part of their demands.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there anything illegitimate about this demand ?

**Minister :** That was not their only reason to go on strike.

#### EVACUEE HOUSES, SHOPS AND FACTORIES

**\*846. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of evacuee houses occupied by the local people in Urban area ;
- (b) the number of evacuee Shops occupied by the local people in Urban area ;
- (c) the number of evacuee factories occupied by the local people in Urban areas ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a), (b) and (c). The information asked for is being collected from the districts and will be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as it has been received. The number of evacuee houses, shops and factories in the occupation of "Locals" cannot, however, be large as orders for the ejection of unauthorized persons from these properties were issued long ago and have been repeatedly stressed on the Deputy Commissioners. Some evacuee houses have been allotted to essential Government servants both refugees and non-refugees in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet. In the case of evacuee factories, for which no tenderers or bidders were forthcoming from out of refugees, it was ordered that fresh auctions open to both

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[Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation]

refugees and non-refugees may be held. It is possible that at these subsequent auctions some of these factories have been taken on lease by non-refugees.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Sir. If you refer to the question, it asks for figures relating to evacuee houses, evacuee shops and evacuee factories, but the reply does not make any mention of those figures. How far is it consistent ?

**Minister :** That is no point of order.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a case of '*sawal gandham, jawab cheena*' ?

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Have the orders of the Government been obeyed ?

**Minister :** Presumably they are.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is his reply that the Government orders are obeyed based on mere presumption or has he got any information to that effect ?

**Minister :** The orders are being obeyed. We know it for a fact.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** If he is so sure where then is the necessity for issuing those orders over and over again ? Is it a fact that they are not being obeyed by the district officers ?

**Minister :** It is not a fact.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I sent a complaint on the 1st December, 1948, which was acknowledged and in which I stated that one of the Parliamentary Secretaries had in his possession a big bungalow and a motor car in contravention of the rules.....

**Mr. Speaker :** The question before the House relates to houses, shops and factories and not motor cars.

#### POINT OF PRIVILEGE

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): On a point of privilege, Sir. The hon. Premier said during his speech yesterday that certain Members of this House charged 3 P.M. travelling allowances for first class whereas they actually travelled third or Inter. This was a reflection on the House. Although the hon. Premier withdrew these words, yet I submit that they should be expunged from the proceedings of the Assembly. The hon.



Members, if at all they travel in the Inter class, have to do so under compulsion because they cannot get tickets for first class at times.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not a point of privilege. It is a request for action.

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### CARTOON IN A NEWSPAPER

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** On a point of order, Sir. I want your ruling on a very important matter. Is it not a violation of the dignity of this hon. House to represent its Members as a donkey and the Leader as an unscrupulous baiter leading it nowhere, as has been done by an influential newspaper in a cartoon ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have more than once stated that before such matters are formally brought before the House, hon. Members should bring them to my notice in a more informal way. As regards the cartoon referred to by the hon. Member, I have not yet seen it and unless I see it I cannot express any opinion on it.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE 1948-49

**Minister for Finance :** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) Sir, as required by Section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 1948-49 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following Statement of expenditure for the financial year 1948-49 which specifies :—

- (a) the supplementary grants made by East Punjab Legislative Assembly in its session held in March, 1949, and
- (b) the sum required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

## SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

No of Grant	Major head included in Demand	Supplementary grants made by East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	I—SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS			
1	7—Land Revenue	1,34,440	...	1,34,440
6 {	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles			
	13—Other Taxes and Duties	1,34,660	...	1,34,660
7 {	XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses			
	18—Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues	17,40,830	...	17,40,830
11	27—Administration of Justice	...	48,800	48,800
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements	4,99,400	...	4,99,440
13	29—Police	31,48,380	...	31,48,380
14 {	36—Scientific Departments			
	47—Miscellaneous Departments	10,910	...	10,910

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (19) 29

15	37—Education	....	16,65,460	6,780	16,72,240
16	38—Medical	....	41,500	...	41,500
18	40—Agriculture	....	24,12,560	...	24,12,560
23	50—Civil Works	....	30,38,150	...	30,38,150
31	56—Stationery and Printing	....	5,30,940	...	5,30,940
32	57—Miscellaneous	....	4,65,83,020	14,000	4,65,97,020
35	Advances Repayable	....	31,48,860	...	31,48,860
36	Loans to Municipalities and Advances to Cultivators, etc.	....	1,20,84,100	...	1,20,84,100
	Loans to Government Servants	....			
	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	....	31,01,230	...	31,01,230
38	85-A—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.	....	45,11,800	...	45,11,800
II—TOKEN DEMANDS					
4	10—Forests	....	10	160	170
8	Charges on Irrigation Establishment	....	10	...	10
10	25—General Administration	....	10	1,66,400	1,66,410

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No. of Grant	Major head included in Demand	Supplementary grant made by East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
17	39—Public Health	10	...	10
19	41—Veterinary	10	...	10
21	43—Industries	10	...	10
24	Buildings and Roads Establishment Charges	10	...	10
25	XLI—Receipts from Electricity Schemes	10	...	10
26	Charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure	10	...	10
27	81—Capital Account of Civil Works (outside the Revenue Account)	10	...	10
28	81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account)	10	...	10
	Grand Total	8,27,86,350	2,36,140	8,30,22,490

Simla :

(Sd) C. M. Trivedi.

The 24th March, 1949.

Governor of East Punjab

**Premier :** (The hon, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I move :

That the Assembly shall meet on Saturday, 26th March, 1949, at 10 A.M. and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 2 P.M. on that day.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved :

That the Assembly shall meet on Saturday the 26th March 1949, at 10 A.M. and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 2 P.M. on that day.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** (Hansi, General, Rural) : Sir I object to this procedure. According to the original programme which was given to us long ago, 26th is an off day and we had fixed our engagements accordingly. If the Government wanted to make use of an off day they should have informed us some days in advance so that we could have adjusted our engagements. The procedure which the Government is following is most objectionable and if the Government is allowed to interfere with the fixed programme like this it would mean a great inconvenience to us.

**Premier :** The notice that the 26th of March will not be an off day was issued from the Assembly office several days ago, so it cannot be said that the members had not been informed in advance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :—

That the Assembly shall meet on Saturday, the 26th March, 1949, at 10 A.M. and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 2 P.M. on that day.

*The motion was carried*

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### RELIEF TO REFUGEES

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for Miscellaneous.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, it is but natural that you should think about the 15th August, 1947 and about the happenings of the following days while discussing the demand under consideration. I am all the more reminded of those happenings because I saw with my own eyes my own and my brethren's ruin. I watched the

[Shri Bhim Sen Sacher]

steady progress of that ruin. I, however, do not want to divert your attention towards those happenings, now at this time while speaking on the demand under consideration. I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to certain facts, which are quite apparent and which concern the rehabilitation of the refugees. While doing so, I will be led by practical and constructive considerations, with a view to suggesting as to what should be done even now for the amelioration of the hard lot of the displaced persons.

These displaced persons can be conveniently divided into two classes. Firstly there are those who were owners of land and secondly those who were not connected with land. I include those refugees who were employed in agriculture but were not owners of land in the refugees of the first category. Now the question before us is how to allot the land left over here by the Muslim evacuees. The area of this land is less than that which our refugees have left behind in West Punjab. Every refugee, therefore, cannot be given his full share of land. The allotment of this land cannot be regarded as the giving of full compensation to the displaced persons. On the other hand, it is only an arrangement to allot the available land. The House will be interested to know that the difference between the area of land left by us in West Punjab and that left over here by the Muslim evacuees, is 1396122 standard acres. Naturally the Government has to devise some formula to allot this land left over here. For this purpose a conference was held at Jullundur. I want to draw the attention of the House towards a suggestion that was given in that conference. The number of the claimants among the refugees coming from West Punjab, whose average land holdings were less than five acres, is 234707. According to the proposal of the conference it was suggested to impose 25 per cent cut in the case of those refugees. I want to submit that the Government should not impose any cut whatsoever in the case of persons who held less than five acres of land in the West Punjab. They should be allotted their full share.

The second class of persons among the agriculturist refugees, consists of those whose holdings were between five and ten acres. Their number is 75248. Even in their case the proposed cut of 25 per cent is rather too much. It should not be more than 15 per cent. What I mean is that these people should at least be given as much land as would enable them to settle down. If one person is settled, the Government, by doing so, settles not only that particular person and his family, but many more. It is, therefore, necessary that these people should be allotted as much land as is sufficient to provide them their livelihood.



The difference in land, caused on account of this adjustment should be made up out of the area to be allotted to the persons whose holdings are between 10 and 30 acres. The number of persons belonging to this category is 71624 and they have filed claims for 1,14,055 acres of land. As I have already said the loss suffered by making no cut in the lands of first two classes of people should be made good from those people who owned between thirty and sixty acres. Those who are the real tillers of soil themselves should not be touched at all. The claims of even those to whose lands cuts are applied should be allowed to stand and they should be given land whenever it is possible to do so.

Now Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to those landless people who lived in villages. May I know from the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation what scheme the Government has with regard to these people including Harijans? These people have to live in villages and I can see that at present the Government appears to have no scheme in hand to settle them there. If there is one, I wish to know it. May I request the hon. Minister not to give a reply to this question for the sake of replying only? In fact he should let the House know what is going to become of these people. Even now two lakhs of refugees are rotting in camps. It has been stated that half of this number will be settled by October and the remaining one lakh in the next few months. As far as I remember such promises were held out even before. But still the camps are there. By the passage of time demoralisation, both physical and moral has set in, in the camps. The future of the people there is dark. They are uncertain of the morrow. They do not know where they will be settled. They cry hoarse but nobody listens to their grievances. They are in a bad predicament. In the present budget a sum of rupees three crores fifty seven lakhs has been set apart for these refugees. This amount is to meet the food and other expenses of the Camps. Out of this, rupees two crores thirty two lakhs and fifty thousand are for food; twelve lakhs for clothing; fourteen lakhs forty eight thousand for Camp establishment and ninety lakhs for medical and Health Charges. Out of the total of Rs. 3,57,00,000 to be spent on the Camps the sum of rupees sixty six lakhs is to be given as grants by the Government. However much our Government may wish to take credit on account of these expenses but in my opinion it is a matter of disgrace for us to go on spending on Camps without getting the displaced persons settled permanently. What shall we do with these people when another year is run? Their position will be as bad as it was a year ago or even worse. If there is any scheme to settle them let the House know it. Either these persons should be settled without any further delay or the Government may go on spending on them without any use to them.

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

With regard to the housing Schemes for the displaced persons so far only four thousand houses have been built and about six thousand sites are to be offered.

Now it has been decided to extend the towns. I am sorry to note that a needless delay has taken place in arriving at this decision. It would have been better if such a decision were announced on fifteenth August, 1947. I am surprised at this short-sighted and unimaginative outlook of the Government. Did it not know at that time the number of refugees and the nature of the problem? A year has passed and yet the surveys are not complete and the plans are not ready. Moreover even now all the urban refugees are not taken into account. It is said that ten lakh persons have settled themselves in evacuee property and the Government is planning for the remaining thirteen lakhs. It appears that the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation has either no information or he forgot to take into account the fact that those people who live in evacuee property are living there under difficult conditions. There is no accommodation for ten lakhs persons in evacuee property.

We receive such reports after every fortnight from the Financial Commissioner. In one of these reports it has been estimated that 10 lakhs of refugees can be accommodated in the houses. This estimate of the Financial Commissioner is absolutely wrong. It cannot be possible. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of refugees can be accommodated in the houses of those Muslims who have left for Pakistan. We do not possess so much evacuee property as to properly accommodate these 10 lakhs refugees as already estimated by the Financial Commissioner. Here I would request the hon. Minister to please let me know what he has to say about it. After all how long will it take the Government to rehabilitate our refugee brethren. Government should keep this fact in view that we have already been deprived of as many as 10 lakhs of our brethren on account of their ill-conceived policy. These people are no longer with us in our province. To-day we do not find technical experts in our province nor do we possess efficient doctors, nor even do we find any eminent businessmen. There are no industrialists in our province. After all what is this all due to.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** They want to send them outside the province.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Government have declared it more than once that 13 lakhs of urban refugees and 17 lakhs of rural refugees would be rehabilitated in the province. Should we take it that they

have expressed their inability to accommodate those of our brethren who have been forced by circumstances to seek refuge outside the province? After all what have these people done? Have these people incurred Governments' displeasure? Is there any reason for it? Can our Government justify their silence towards these helpless and down-trodden people? I really fail to understand as to what it must be all due to. May I know as to how, in the absence of any urban-life, or a town-life, the existing industries, industrial institutes, commercial institutes and other concerns, are going to flourish with a view to revive prosperity and peace in the province?

Now about the capital of our province. Some decision has been made about it. I would request the hon. Minister for Development to throw some light on this matter. What I want to know from him is this as to how long will it take the capital to be ready. I have tried to go through the various items in the Budget to see as to what our Government propose to do during this year. Provision has been made in the Budget for collecting material and other preliminary things in connection with the establishment of the capital. I have already stated this that in all the provinces except ours, with one capital of the province, we find many towns too. Even if the new capital could not be established, Government should have arrived at some decision in proceeding with the development of second best town in the province, so that our industries, educational centres and the cultural centres could flourish. To-day our refugee brethren are at a loss to know as to what to do and where to go. May I know as to what the Government have to say about it? They should not hesitate to make their position clear. After all how long will this state of affairs continue? How long will it take the Government to solve this problem?

Further, I wish to make a few observations regarding the allotment of land. In the beginning when our refugee brethren migrated from West Punjab and came to this side of the province, they were asked to settle district-wise or in other words refugees belonging to a certain district in West Punjab were asked to settle on land in a certain district in this province. Afterwards they were told to shift to other districts with the result that these poor and helpless people were at a loss to know what to do and where to go. In the absence of any set-plan of the Government they were forced to settle at different places. In fact they had no other alternative except this. I would like to suggest that now that the new allotment is going to be made.....

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** On a point of order, Sir. Since there are several Members who want to take part in the discussion of the Demand under consideration, I would request that a time limit may be fixed for every Member who makes a speech.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think the hon. Ministers will take about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours and then only 35 minutes are left which the hon. Members will avail of. I have got a list of 8 Members who want to participate in the debate and I am prepared to give four minutes to each of them.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** I would request you to cut down hon. Ministers' time. Give them two hours.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** One hour will be sufficient for each Minister and I think 15 minutes should be given to each speaker.

**Mr. Speaker :** The utmost that I can do is, that I will allot two hours to the hon. Ministers and one hour to the hon. Members. After the hon. Member who is in possession of the House, has finished, the remaining seven Members will get eight minutes each.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I seek the guidance of the Chair, as to when I should finish.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member may wind up within ten minutes.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** All right Sir, I shall only touch the points that I have to put forward for the consideration of the Government.

Sir, I would like to express my views with regard to allotment of land by the East Punjab Government under the new scheme. I hope Government will consider my suggestion and thus do something substantial in this connection. In the present circumstances there should be minimum displacement of people who have been allotted lands. People who have already been allotted land . . . . .

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** I would request the hon. Member Shri Bhim Sen Sachar to ask the opinion of the zamindars on the point. He appears to be ignorant about that.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. The hon. Member has a right to give expression to his views.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** He may say anything about urban rehabilitation but not on a matter concerning the zamindars.

**Mr. Speaker :** No. He is within his rights to express himself on the subject. He is as much a representative of the rural areas as of the urban areas.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :** No, Sir. He does not know anything about the zamindars.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** In our schools and colleges, the teachers and professors did not teach us to be after only a particular problem. On the other hand we were expected to learn anything and everything. It is on the basis of this education which I have received and on the basis of those ideas which are of common understanding and which can be developed by mixing with people and thus realizing their troubles and difficulties and last but not the least, it is on the basis of some little knowledge which I happen to possess that I can express myself on the subject. Therefore, I would like to suggest that no cut should be applied to lands to be given to those rural refugees who possess less than five acres. Under the circumstances, I would once again lay emphasis on this point that there should be minimum displacement of those who have been allotted lands. These rural refugees who have already settled on some land have been bringing it under cultivation and it will not be in the fitness of things to disturb them now. Keeping the food problem which is already causing severe headache to all the provincial Governments, in view, I cannot do without saying this that there should be minimum displacement of those who are in possession of lands. This is my humble opinion.

Now about the accommodation. In the absence of any plan of the Government, it is not possible to provide accommodation to our refugee brethren in the villages. So far as the question of providing accommodation in the towns is concerned, we will not be able to do so for many years to come. If according to the programme of the Government, accommodation cannot be made available for some years to come, I fail to understand as to where and how they are going to be provided with accommodation. This problem could have very easily been solved by rationing the surplus accommodation in the towns of our province. All the surplus space available in the towns could have been requisitioned as well. This is not all. All the houses built by the local people could have been requisitioned and rented out to refugees. Here I cannot do without saying this that Government is afraid of taking such a step. I am really constrained to remark that on the one hand we are faced with the problem of providing accommodation for lakhs of homeless refugees, while on the other, we find some people in possession of much more space than they actually require. For instance a family consisting of 4 members is in possession of as many as 10 rooms.



[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

Sir, there is another reason why it is becoming so difficult for the Government to solve the housing problem. The Government is perhaps under the impression that everything is to be done by itself and that no one can share its responsibility in the matter of providing accommodation to the refugees. I submit, Sir, that if the Government is really under this impression, it should at once give up this attitude and encourage every person who can invest money in building houses to come forward and help it solve this problem. The Government should try to persuade local people through its rehabilitation machinery or district authorities to invest their surplus money for this good cause and they should be assured that they would be given necessary facilities for this purpose. The question that is of real importance to-day is not that original residents of East Punjab will come to possess many houses. The real problem is how to provide shelter to these unfortunate people in this hour of crisis in their lives. They want houses to live in. They do not care whether Government builds them or the monied people of the East Punjab, provided they can get accommodation at a fair rent.

There is another matter, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government as also the hon. Members of this House. To-day I do not find in this province that public enthusiasm which I consider so essential for tackling successfully such a gigantic problem as the rehabilitation of lakhs of uprooted persons. I feel, Sir, that if instead of one, four Financial Commissioners are entrusted with this task and another Minister is appointed to assist the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, even then it would not be possible to accomplish it, so long as popular enthusiasm is not there. How many persons are there in this province to-day who consider it their duty to help up-rooted people in their hour of distress? So far as I know, very few. I do not find a vestige of popular enthusiasm about this matter, nor do I see any officer of the Publicity Department or any district officer feeling or realizing the necessity of arousing it. I would, Sir, therefore, stress the need of making people conscious of their duty in this matter and urge upon the Government to utilize its various agencies for this purpose.

I must hurry up, Sir, if I have to finish my speech in the time allotted to me. I would like to make a few more suggestions, before winding up. Rehabilitation implies two things—providing living accommodation and providing work or in other words some source of earning livelihood. I have dealt with the first. Now I come to the second viz., the need of providing source of livelihood. In this connection, I submit, Sir, that either the Government can employ them in its own departments



or give them some land to cultivate or help them to start some trade or business. Obviously, the Government cannot provide employment to all the unemployed people. So other sources of livelihood have to be found for them. It is, therefore, very essential, Sir, that we should utilize every inch of land, whether fertile or unfertile, provided it has not been declared unculturable. I suggest, Sir, that land which is at present lying uncultivated, but which is likely to yield something and to improve in future when canal water from the Bhakra Project would be available, must not be allowed to remain fallow. It should be given to poor refugees and I am sure they would be able to earn their bread by working hard on it and shall cease to be a burden on the Government. I think, Sir, that instead of keeping the refugees idle in camps, it would be better to give them some work to do, so that they might not become demoralized and deteriorated. The Government must, therefore, find land for them. It is not necessary that land should be given only to those whose occupation has been agriculture. Every able-bodied man who is willing to pursue this calling, should be given some land.

As regards other callings, such as business, trade etc., one thing that is indispensable is the Capital. People can only pursue these occupations, if they have some money to start with. Sir, I hope you won't mind, if I take you into facts and figures. On page 311 of the 'New Expenditure', you will find the money allocated for various schemes of rehabilitation, on which the Government proposes to spend in the course of the next year. The figures will make it clear as to how much money is being spent on establishment charges and how much is being spent on actual rehabilitation work. Firstly, Sir, you will find that a sum of Rs. 10,28,000 has been earmarked for meeting establishment charges (pay and allowances of the staff etc.) of the Land Resettlement Schemes, which come under the various rehabilitation schemes. I do not say that provision should not have been made on this account. What I want to urge is that this amount should be and can be spent in a better way and for strictly rehabilitation purposes. Next, you will find, Sir, that a sum of Rs. 12,000/- has been provided on account of the pay of officers under the item 'Industrial Staff for Industrial Rehabilitation Schemes'. In all, a sum of Rs. 65,000 has been provided for establishment charges under the 'Industrial Staff'. Similarly Sir, a sum of Rs. 75,810 has been provided for the staff of Cotton Spinning and Weaving Centres' scheme. The total amount of money proposed to be spent in connection with the establishment charges of various rehabilitation schemes comes to Rs. 1,25,570. Similarly it is proposed to spend lakhs of rupees on account of the pay of District Urban Rehabilitation Officers. Sir, by giving these facts and figures, what I want to point out is that unnecessarily large sums of

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money are being spent by the Government on setting up various agencies for carrying out its policy. Can't the hon. Minister-in-Charge, think out some scheme to spend these grants amounting to Rs. 66 lakhs in a better way? Again, a sum of Rs. 3 crores is to be spent on feeding the refugees, who are living in camps. I think, Sir, that if instead of spending large amounts of money on feeding the refugees and maintenance of staff for rehabilitation schemes, if the Government agrees to grant a sum of Rs. 1,000 to each refugee family, all the camps can be emptied to-day and two lakhs of refugees living in them can easily start their lives afresh and cease to be a burden on the Government. Why does the Government hesitate to take this step? I admit Sir, that even then the problem of unattached persons, widows and orphans would remain to be solved. To solve this problem, a network of Ashrams and widow homes will have to be established all over the Province. If people are not resettled and are kept idle in camps, besides feeding them, the Government will have to face other problems and responsibilities. It will have to maintain medical staff to look after those of them who fall sick. Again if they remain idle, these fine specimens of humanity will degenerate and will take to evil habits and ways and thus become a danger to the peace of the Province. So the Government instead of spending on the maintenance of medical staff and increasing the strength of the Police and security staff, would be well-advised to devise some scheme for their speedy rehabilitation, before their plight becomes worse and more pitiable. I would request the hon. Minister-in-Charge that instead of trying to neutralize the effects of others sober remarks by cleverly-worded retorts, he should try to think out some such plan as might be calculated to help these uprooted and ruined people to stand on their legs again.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the time you have allowed to me is very short and it will be rather impossible for me to express my views on the demand under discussion within such a short time. Sir, I happened to be at Jullundur when the unfortunate victims of communal frenzy, leaving their hearths and homes under adverse circumstances came to this side of the Province. They were grief-stricken by the catastrophe that had overwhelmed them and were on the horns of dilemma where to go. At that time the Cabinet considered over the problem of distributing the rural classes amongst the refugees in the East Punjab in order to settle them on the soil. Taking a quick view of the matter as the situation demanded, the Government could not come to a satisfactory conclusion.

At that time, the Cabinet's mind was obsessed with theories of socialism which were advocated by the Director General of Rehabilitation, of which he wanted to make experiment on these unfortunate rural class of refugees. Without giving the matter their careful consideration, the Government decided to make a temporary allotment of 8 or 10 acres of land to each displaced person. After a few days according to the announcement of the Government, the land-owning class of Lahore district was ordered to go to Hoshiarpur to resettle themselves there. The Government again adopted a wrong policy of making allotment of land to these people for a period of six months. After sometime the Government again asked these refugees to go from one district to the other. The result is that we are now facing acute shortage of food in the province, which is solely due to the ill-conceived policy of the Government. The refugees were reduced to abject straits that they resorted to cutting down trees and burning the timber used in the houses to satisfy their urgent needs. The haphazard way in which the refugees were driven from pillar to post in the beginning is responsible for this low morale. Moreover the allotment being temporary for a short period of six months; the allottees took little interest in developing it which resulted in wastage and loss of crops. So with regard to the policy of the Government to take decisions, I think the less said the better. The Government's lack of foresight is further evident from the fact that it printed hundreds of thousands of forms for registration of land claims. But eventually it had to alter its decision as the record was made available to this Government by the West Punjab Government. So the money spent in this direction proved wastage. Besides, the claims made on these forms were mostly false and thus clever persons succeeded in getting more land from the Government. Those who had left behind barren lands have been able to get fertile land here. So it will be obvious that want of proper planning and wavering policy of the East Punjab Government in taking decisions are mainly responsible for the unsettled conditions of refugees in the East Punjab. Sometime back I had an opportunity of discussing the matter of rehabilitation of refugees with a responsible officer of the Rehabilitation Department and he confessed with tears in his eyes that the hon. Minister's attention was wholly directed towards the work of allotment of shops and houses. He also stated how in the haphazard way the Minister has been undoing the work of allotment committees firstly by allowing the allotment of shops and then cancelling it, and that he had no plan to settle refugees in the economic life of the province. I wholeheartedly associate myself with his views that the Minister has absolutely no clear cut policy or programme of rehabilitation of refugees. We cannot shut our eyes to this undeniable truth that Hindus and Sikhs are

[Chaudhri Kartar Singh]

not free from communal bias. In fact every Hindu or Sikh barring a few but rare exceptions, is communal at heart. This disease has also crept in Government services. Now class differences are coming into prominence between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Unfortunately the Director General of Rehabilitation and other highly placed officers in that department are non-agriculturists. It appears that they have planned to enforce such a policy with regard to the rehabilitation of these rural classes of refugees which will be suicidal to their interests. It will be observed that higher valuation of lands situated in Jhelum, Mianwali, Attock and Rawalpindi has been made and on the other hand the fertile lands of Lyallpur, Montgomery and Sialkot districts have been under-rated. I would like to give a concrete example of the scheme of graded cuts of the Government. My friend hailing from Muzaffargarh district owned about 16,000 acres of land which yielded an annual income of Rs. 16,000. Before the partition of the province he was having a job in the Civil Secretariat on Rs. 60/- per mensem, and now he is getting Rs. 250/- p. m. According to the scheme of graded cuts his land was reduced to 325 acres of land. According to the scheme of the Rehabilitation Department his income will be increased from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 60,000/-. There is no gainsaying the fact that the land in the Lyallpur district was so fertile that it fetched a price of Rs. 50,000/- per square but according to the Valuation Scheme their value has been assessed at a ridiculously low rate as the Department considers that a price of Rs. 50,000/- per square is a sentimental value. Under this scheme the value of the land of Muzaffargarh, Deragazi Khan and Jhelum and Minianwali districts has been assessed at a high rate while in case of the fertile land of colonies the value has been under-estimated. I would, therefore, sound a note of warning to the Government that by putting into operation such schemes, the land-owning class of refugees would not be able to eke out subsistence from the land. The hon. Minister may have the complacency to know that he has given satisfaction to the refugees but far from giving satisfaction he will prove a prolific source of discontent and bitterness. The general reaction of the landholders to this scheme has been one of disappointment. By doing so the Government is preparing a breeding ground for the communist element to grow in our province. It is, therefore, abundantly clear that the Government have not been able to tackle with the problem of rehabilitation of both urban and rural class of people. They have been entirely neglected and reduced to abject straits. But the hon. Ministers of the Government are busy consolidating their position and forming constituencies to the best of their advantage.



**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not impute motives. He should wind up.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Now, Sir, the system of allotment of factories left by the Muslim evacuees in the East Punjab was most objectionable. At first the Government could not come to any decision for a long time in the matter of allotment of these factories. Then in order to avoid blame, they decided to allot these factories by tender system. The result was that the factories were not allotted to the displaced industrialists from the West Punjab. The wrong policies followed by the Government in the past have been responsible for creating miserable conditions for the refugees and now if the Government persist in pursuing a policy of standard acre, then I am afraid the Government will precipitate ruin for the whole province.

**Pandit Faqir Chand :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural.) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the first submission I wish to make is that the Government should try to settle the displaced persons belonging to a particular district, at the same place. If this is not done, they will have to face additional difficulties. It is not an easy job to make new friendships. For displaced and ruined persons, it is still more difficult to develop new acquaintances. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and Chaudhri Kartar Singh will bear me out that it is very difficult to make new friendships.

The next point which I wish to place before the Government is that permanent allotment of land should be made as early as possible. A large area of land in our province has already remained uncultivated due to the mistake of our Government. Hon Ministers used to tell people that permanent allotment would be made within three months. People therefore, did not till the lands temporarily allotted to them, with the result that we are faced with shortage of wheat. It is true that many people submitted false claims, but the Government should have foreseen all the difficulties. If people had been told that they had to live on the lands which had been allotted to them, they would have taken interest in their cultivation and would not have preferred to move to cities.

Another reason why the displaced persons do not settle in the villages is that the shop-keepers who started their shops in villages were not afforded the facility of obtaining loans. About Amritsar, I can say on the basis of my personal knowledge that none of the petty shop-keepers who started business in the villages has been able to get an advance of even a penny. As these facilities were available only in cities, these people had naturally to move there. This has resulted in still greater shortage of accommodation in cities, about which we have heard our Ministers speak so often.

[Pandit Faqir Chand]

Then, Sir, there are a number of persons who were able to obtain loans from the Government. Now, the Government has issued a foolish (*Ahmkana*) order to some of these persons.

**Mr. Speaker :** The word 'foolish', (*Ahmkana*) is rather strong and objectionable.

**Pandit Faqir Chand :** I withdraw it. I was submitting that the Government has issued a wrong order, asking several persons to refund the loans granted to them as they have not used these for purposes, for which these were obtained. If a person is not advanced the amount for which he applied, how can he start the business which he proposed to start? For instance, if a person asked for a loan of one thousand rupees for purchasing a tonga, how can he do so, if the Government advances him only three hundred rupees. Instead of ordering these persons to refund the loans, the Government could have called upon them to explain reasons for not starting the business for which these were advanced to them. They are told to appeal to the Commissioner, if they so desire. Now, Sir, do you expect a person living in Kangra to go to Jullundur to file his appeal and thus spend almost the entire amount which might have been advanced to him. The Government should not bring bad name to the Congress by issuing such wrong orders. The wail of the refugees may not be able to do any harm to the Congress, but the wrong orders of the Government are sure to bring it into disrepute.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the pitiable condition of widows, who lost all the members of their families in Pakistan. We want Ministership as a reward for our having undergone imprisonment for two or three years, but are not these poor widows entitled to a shelter even. They are passing their days in a miserable way. The widows, who are in cities have been given small grants but those living in villages have been given no assistance.

The next submission I wish to make is about the heavy rents fixed by our Government. In Pakistan a 'Secret Service' organisation is at work which threatens people that anyone who purchases the property of a Hindu or a Sikh would be put an end to. On our side, however, very high rents have been fixed for the evacuee property. We should follow the example of Pakistan in this matter. Our Government pays no attention to this matter and aims at following high *Yudhishtrian* ideals.



The last thing, which I wish to impress on the Government is that it should try its best to obtain full compensation for the shops and houses abandoned by Hindus and Sikhs. Study of Muslim History has convinced me that the nationals of Pakistan are bullies. If the East Punjab Government and the Government of India take a strong stand and insist on full compensation, they will be able to get it. If our Government acts half-heartedly as it is doing at present, all our schemes will have only paper value, and associations of the type of S. S. Group, which have sprung up in Pakistan, will not permit those schemes to be worked. This will spell the complete ruin of Hindus and Sikhs, which the Government should try to avoid.

**Sardar Sardul Singh :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore, West Sikh, Rural.) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the problem of refugees is very important. Many countries in the world had to face situations of this kind and the capability and efficiency of a Government is judged from the way it acts on such occasions. Seven hundred thousand Jews have not only established a new State but have successfully fought against all the Arab countries. A similar situation has confronted our country. Six million persons, who were very well to do in the West Punjab, have been completely ruined. In spite of the lakhs of rupees said to have been spent by the Government, a large number of refugees are still without food and clothing. Some money has been advanced to urban refugees but rural refugees cannot avail of that facility even. These people did not leave their homes of their own accord but our leaders created conditions which compelled them to do so.

Sir, it is a thousand pities that still no steps have been taken by the Government to define the position of the refugees and the extent of responsibility of the Government towards them. It will be recalled that when the Indians who had settled in Burma had to suffer the fate of refugees the Burmese Government promulgated an ordinance entitled Burma Evacuees in India Ordinance and gave them all possible help according to their social position and status. The Government of Burma clearly stated in the Ordinance that the refugees would be properly rehabilitated after the emergency was over. But I am sorry to say that no such useful measures are being adopted by our Government. Instead of affording some relief to the uprooted population of the West Punjab this Government has come forth with its Standard Acre Scheme which is calculated to do the greatest possible harm to the owners of rich lands at Lyallpur, Montgomery and such other places. In fact an attempt is being made to present the old ten acre formula in a different form, for which nobody has ever had a good word. This scheme which is being passed on to us under

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a new name, is only a sugar-coated pill and is not likely to yield any favourable results. I have no hesitation in saying that the very basis of fixation of a standard acre is wrong and the zamindars of fertile districts of Lyallpur, Lahore, Montgomery, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Sialkot etc. are being very hard hit. With the enforcement of the scheme the position of the various districts will be as follows :

District	Standard Acres per cent
Lyallpur	60½
Lahore	60½
Montgomery	48
Multan	50
Sheikhupura	55
Gujranwala	57
Sialkot	66
Gujrat	61
Jhang	62
Shahpur	56
Rawalpindi	67
Jhelum	64
D. G. Khan	64
Attock	63
Mianwali	65
Muzaffar Garh	55

These figures clearly show that the zamindars who are owners of fertile and canal irrigated lands will be losers whereas the owners of Barani Lands at Rawalpindi and Mianwali will be gainers. This to my mind is an act of grave injustice on the part of Government.

Now I wish to invite the attention of the House to the measure of prices fixed for assessing the value of lands—

Produce per acre	Price
Less than 20 seers	6 pies
20 seers	1 anna
One maund	2 annas
2 maunds	4 annas
3 maunds	6 annas
10 maunds	16 annas

**Mr. Speaker :** These things have already been discussed on the floor of this House.

**Sardar Sardul Singh :** Sir, it is clear that an attempt has been made to benefit owners of inferior quality land. A price of six annas has been fixed for an acre of land which yields three maunds of produce whereas only sixteen annas have been fixed for a good quality acre which produces ten maunds. This means that the irrigated land is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times better than the Barani land. This is absolutely wrong and is not borne out by actual facts. Hon. Members must be aware that Barani land at Mianwali etc. could be had at eight or ten rupees an acre whereas land at Lyallpur, Lahore and Montgomery cost something like Rs. 2,000 per acre. So I can safely say that the irrigated land was at least 100 times more costly than the Barani land. I would in the circumstances suggest that the standard acre scheme is very unsatisfactory and should be abandoned. Sir, I think the Government has failed to understand its position. The position of the Government at the present juncture is like that of a Bank under liquidation which has to distribute its assets among its creditors and has not to issue new and standard coins for them.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, as the attainment of Indian independence is a unique event in history so is the work which we had to perform in evacuating about a crore of people from Pakistan to India. But our duty towards our unfortunate brethren does not end with evacuation. As a matter of fact a very important phase of our work begins here. When our people after suffering untold losses both in life and property came to this province it was the duty of our Government as also of every one of us to provide all possible facilities for resettling them, so that they felt here at home like other residents of this place. So far as the question of their losses and hardships is concerned I think that the Government of India should have shouldered the responsibility of compensating them. We should make the Government of India feel that it is in fact their part of work and that they should not shirk it.

Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that Government of India did commendable work in connection with the evacuation of the people and spent a good deal of money in maintaining refugee camps. But if I am allowed to say so the Provincial Government did not realise its duty to any appreciable extent. When our displaced brethren arrived in our Province they got such a shabby treatment at the hands of Government officers that the less I talk of it the better. I can cite a thousand

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instances of carelessness and indifference on the part of officials. I would just relate an incident which happened in my district to illustrate my point.

In the beginning, the refugees could not get anything either to eat or to put on, in the camps. While they were lying on the railway stations there was no arrangement for providing even meals to them. As a result of that, they had to starve for days and days together. We brought their sad plight to the notice of the hon. Ministers and also forced them to visit the camps. On their doing so, the conditions improved in the camps. There is no doubt that our Government has tried to spend the financial aid received from the Government of India, in the best possible manner. But still I feel that this money has not been properly spent for the rehabilitation of the refugees. I will rather say that this money has been spent more for the rehabilitation of the Government officials than for that of the refugees. I am reminded of an instance, in this connection. Some years back, during the days of the British Government, the Government of India formed a scheme for the rural uplift, at the estimated expenditure of one crore of rupees. This money was to be spent for the betterment of villages of the whole of India. For this purpose, a huge staff was appointed. Out of the money that was left after the payment of the establishment charges, every village got only one rupee as its share of the big sum. A friend of mine, in a pamphlet on that subject described the scheme of rural uplift as the scheme for the uplift of the Government officials. Similar is the case with regard to our Rehabilitation Department. Thousands of officials have been newly appointed while hundreds have been taken over from other Departments with fat allowances. But in spite of such a huge staff, the lot of the poor refugees has not been bettered even after the lapse of about two years. The hardships that have been undergone by the refugees during this period, have been described at length by other hon. Members. The refugees have now exhausted whatever little resources they had got and now future for them is dark and gloomy. This Department, in fact, was not established for the rehabilitation of the refugees but for the rehabilitation of the Government officials. It is due to the staff of this Department that the expenditure of our Government has become double. All the staff of the Government has almost been doubled. In every district, there are two Deputy Commissioners and at every place two Tehsildars, one of the Revenue Department, the other of the Rehabilitation Department. The money spent on this excessive staff could be better used for the resettlement of the refugees and the work of rehabilitation could be entrusted to

the officials who were already there, after giving them some extra staff. But now, in spite of the staff having been doubled, the output of work has gone down and the officials are over-ruling each other. Most of them are sitting idle, without any work to do.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** Who are the officials who have no work to do ?

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** The Tehsildars of the Revenue Department. All of their work has been taken over by the officials of the Rehabilitation Department. These officials, so often, over-rule each other and it is due to the excess of staff.

Besides, it would have been much better if the Government had given five hundred or a thousand rupees per head to the refugees at the very outset and had sent them to the villages instead of lodging them in the camps. If our Government takes such a step even now, I think, it can solve the refugee problem to a great extent. The officials have shown favours to their friends and relatives and thus the interests of the refugees, in general, have been sacrificed.

I had to say a few things more, but now my time is over and, therefore, I resume my seat.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing North Western Towns, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, at the time of the partition of the country, all the assets and liabilities of the Government were divided between India and Pakistan. I saw at Lahore the division of the library books and even of chairs and benches. But I am sorry to say that nobody has ever thought about the transfer of property of those 50 or 60 lakhs of people who were forced to migrate from Pakistan under dire circumstances. Our Government did well to bring chairs, benches and library books of its share from Lahore.

**Mr. Speaker :** We have not brought our benches and chairs.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** I was saying Sir, that all the assets and liabilities of the Government were divided between India and Pakistan. But it would have been better if the Government had also thought of the transfer of property of those unfortunate people who were sacrificed at the altar of the goddess of independence. After all it was not a very big problem. The number of displaced people who have come here from Pakistan, is not more than 2 per cent of the total population



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of the Indian Union. If these displaced persons had not brought anything with them and the Muslims had also not gone over to Pakistan, every hundred people living in the Indian Union could easily have made up the loss of every two displaced persons. But the situation as it is has been made easier by the migration of the Muslims from the East Punjab to the West Punjab. As such, half of our displaced persons could be settled on the evacuee property. The losses of the other half could be made up jointly by the people of the East Punjab and of the other parts of the Indian Union. Even now I would like to submit that our Government should urge upon the Government of India for compensating the displaced persons for their losses incurred in West Punjab.

I admit that some of these people will be resettled somehow or other. Some of them will die of starvation and still others will adopt immoral ways to earn their livelihood. These people will be a continuous danger to the peace and order of our country. Somehow or the other, these people shall pass their days. But the coming generations will blame the Government of India and the people of East Punjab for not accommodating the persons who lost their all in order to enable India to achieve her independence. The sympathy of the Government with the displaced persons can be judged from the fact that ever since the discussion on this Demand has been going on, the ministerial benches have been vacant.

A youngman died in my neighbourhood. He left behind his wife and children to mourn him. For the first few days all the people of the street shared their grief and pitied her and the poor children. She daily wept for the dear departed. After a lapse of about four months people became sick of her and began to curse her. Similarly, we might forget the sufferings of the poor refugees in due course and begin to say that they are weeping for nothing. Their case is in danger of being neglected after sometime. Some of the refugees may get settled, others may die and yet others may be forced to lead an ignoble life. But this will be a blot on the fair name of India and a disgrace to us all. Both the Governments have divided their assets and liabilities. But why is it that they have not divided private property also? I don't wish to enter into the question of the failings of our Government. But when I go through a letter from refugees I find how wrong our calculations about the settlement of refugees have been during the course of the year gone by. I cannot but think of the condition of the displaced persons in our camps. Their plight is miserable. Last time, I gave a suggestion to the effect that if a sum of rupees one thousand be given to each refugee family as help and they are asked to look after themselves, half of the population of



our camps will get settled somewhere or other. But this scheme was not accepted. I think the Government is spending no less than rupees twenty per head per month on the refugees lying in the camps. This comes to, on an average, rupees twelve hundred per family of five members. Moreover, we are turning them beggars. Last year it was considered a disgrace to live in a camp and everybody tried to get out of it. But now they are trying to get admission into camps. So an undesirable habit is growing. It should be checked and persons should be settled as soon as possible. The pace at which we are dealing with this important problem is too slow. In one year, four thousand houses have been built. This number is hardly enough to accommodate those people who are huddled together in cities and towns. How will the camp people be accommodated? At this pace, we won't be able to settle all the people in many years to come. If we give rupees one thousand per family and ask them to go wherever they like, the problem can be easily solved. Some may go to Madras, some to Bombay and others to other provinces of India. We should not allow the refugees to rot in camps for long. We fear lest they might get demoralised there. The construction of four thousand houses in a year is nothing. We should speed up. We should not dream of building colonies on the models of Washington and other great cities wherein all sorts of comforts are provided. There is a saying that when there is uncertainty of a square meal a day why dream of amassing wealth? Had we treated the problem on a war basis barracks would have been built in no time. If the refugees were asked to build houses for themselves in cities and in camps there would have been no man without a house by this time. Moreover, there would have been a lot of saving to the Government as well. At various places in the towns Muslim houses are lying in a dilapidated condition. Had the people been asked to repair them and had they been assured of, at least, ten years possession of those houses, they would have got settled.

Now I wish to say something about lands. On this issue I do not want to see brothers quarrelling among themselves. So in my opinion the question of value should not have been raised at all. In Lyallpore, the value has been calculated on 1935-36 figures and in Sargodha on the prices of 1911-12. The prices at that time were very low.

We should have strongly represented to the Government of India that the shortage of land in East Punjab should be made good in other parts of India and that the refugees should not be made to suffer on that account. Anyhow, I wish to submit a constructive proposal to the House. There is twenty-five thousand acres of land which is lying unreclaimed in

[Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi]

East Punjab. The people of East Punjab who have not been able to utilize it will be prepared to give it to the refugees. If they don't agree, a nominal price may be given or the land can be acquired by the Government for refugees. Another proposal is that the land of Muslim owners which was mortgaged by them to the people of East Punjab may be taken away from them and given to refugees. There is four to five lakh acres of such land.

Government have verified the claims of the rural refugees. They realize three-fold land revenue from them. It is hoped that our refugee brethren from rural areas will get something at least. By saying so, I do not mean to express that I differentiate between the rural and the urban refugees. My hon. Friend Sardar Joginder Singh Mann will get at least 10 per cent of the land left by him in West Punjab. What I wish to point out is this that nothing substantial has been done for the poor urban refugees. In fact Government have not paid any attention towards those refugees, who have been reduced to straitened circumstances. I had strong belief that about 15 or 16 lakhs of urban refugees would be rehabilitated by the Government. But I am constrained to remark that loans have not been made available to more than 10 or 11 thousand families. I do not think Government have done anything extraordinary by helping these few thousand urban families. If the Government had accepted my last year's proposal and given Rs. 1000/- per family, it would have been possible for them to find their occupation and settle somewhere. Now the conditions of securing loans have been made more rigid. It is not possible now to secure loans individually. Now these loans can be obtained through the co-operative societies. In my opinion, it was better for the Government to refuse loans to them rather than ask them to avail of these loans through the co-operative societies. I wish to repeat for the information of the hon. Members that previously loans were made available to refugees individually. Now some changes have been effected in the rules governing the grant of loans to the refugees. I would request the Government to show some sympathy towards these uprooted people. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that Government should give loans to them on the same conditions as before. Government have stopped giving loans to urban refugee families which are about 4 or 5 lakh in number and out of these only 10 or 11 thousand families have already received loans. I would request the Government to grant loans to them liberally. In this connection, I would like to suggest that Government should verify the property of the urban refugees as has been decided in the case of the rural refugees and thus grant them loans against their property.

They should also grant a loan of Rs. 100/- or Rs. 500/- to those refugees who do not happen to possess any property in West Punjab with a view to rehabilitating them. It will not be out of place to mention here that a sum of Rs. 9,00,00,000 is being distributed amongst the refugees by the Central Government. I do not think that a sum not exceeding rupees thirty or forty lakhs can be distributed in the course of one year and by the time the whole amount is distributed, these poor people might die in misery and poverty.

Now about the factories. So far the allotment of factories is concerned, there is no complaint whatsoever against the Government as they have not shown any favour while leasing them out to refugees. There can be no two opinions about it that the people of our side were hard-working and industrious. We do not find such men amongst the original residents of the East Punjab. They have no experience of maintaining factories. I am constrained to remark that in one of the big factories of Batala, people did not know how to put it in working order. So far as the factories in Batala are concerned, I am told that quotas of essential raw material are distributed in a peculiar way. The factories in Batala, in comparison with the factories of Mughulpura in Lahore, were biggest factories of the United Punjab. I wish to point out that people whom factories have been leased out in Batala are facing great inconveniences for want of essential material. It is really a pity that nobody hears their grievances. A clerk is all-powerful and he does everything at his sweet will. It is virtually the clerk and not the Director-General who wields more influence and does everything according to his will and grants quotas to whomsoever he likes. I would request the Government to pay their due attention towards my submissions. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I shall be much thankful to you, if you will kindly allow me to speak while sitting.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Premier is permitted to do so.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** On a point of order, Sir. Hon. Members may be given 15 minutes more as the hon. Ministers do not require more time. They have to reply in 'deeds' only.

**Mr. Speaker :** And in words too.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Hon. Members have to voice the feelings of the people with regard to the motion now before the House. Some of them have to place before the House the grievances of the people. So far as the hon. Ministers who belong to this province are concerned, I wish to submit that they have not realised the difficulties of the people and they have no feeling for them. In fact, they are not in a mood to feel for them. Hon. Members have to get much work from them. Under the circumstances, I would request you to give more time to hon. Members and the rest of the time to the hon. Ministers.

**Premier :** Sir, I wish to throw some light on the history of the Partition of our country.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal :** Then the cartoon appearing in the Tribune dated 25th March, 1948 represents the true picture of the state of affairs. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker :** What does the hon. Lady Member mean by the remarks she made. I do not want this. The Lady Member should not say so. She does not know the rules.

**Premier :** Sir, I want to focuss the attention of the hon. Members on the point that when the Cabinet Mission came here they placed their proposals before the leaders. These proposals were accepted by them. According to these proposals, Punjab, Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan were going to be grouped together to form Section "C" and thus the work of the Constituent Assembly was started. The Muslim League started propaganda in full swing in the Punjab and it resulted in the resignation of the then Cabinet. Immediately after the resignation of the Cabinet, we fully expressed ourselves against the creation of Pakistan. In view of the state of the country, the people were forced to accept the theory of Pakistan. They thus rejected the Cabinet proposals and accepted the partition of the country. The British Government accordingly accepted this view and the Arbitration Council appointed the Boundary Commission to determine the reasonable division of the country.

When partition was decided upon, a Partition Committee was formed. This committee was entrusted with the work of partitioning the Government property. Since it was decided to partition the province, it naturally followed that Government property should also be partitioned. Perhaps my hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh was referring to this matter in his speech.

But, Sir, in spite of the fact that the partition of the Government property had been decided upon, we have not so far been able to get all that was to come to our share according to the stipulated terms.

Sir, while giving a brief history of the events leading to the partition, it would not be out of place to mention that after partition had been agreed to, the late Qaid-i-Azam Mr. Jinnah was asked to make a declaration whether non-Muslims would be allowed to live in the future State of Pakistan or not. But up to the last minute, no such declaration was made. At last, we were told that the partition of the country did not mean the transfer of populations and that Hindus and Sikhs would be welcome to live in Pakistan. But, Sir, after the partition, there was a cataclysmic change. Disturbances and riots spread to all the districts of West Punjab.

Even after migration of people from one side to the other had started, the representatives of the Government of India and East Punjab contacted the leaders of Pakistan and held negotiations with them. The upshot of all this was that the West Punjab representatives made an announcement that every effort would be made to persuade the people who had collected in camps to go back to their homes and that those who wanted to migrate would be allowed to do so. But after two or three days, a telephonic message was received from the West Punjab Government that it was becoming impossible for people living in Camps to return to their homes. After this, nothing was heard about this matter from representatives of West Punjab. So it was then decided that if the migration has to take place, steps should be taken to evacuate people from West Punjab as comfortably as possible. A few days later, when a conference of the representatives of the two dominions was held in Lahore, the hon. Sardar Patel on that occasion made it clear that such an atmosphere had been created in West Punjab that no Hindu or Sikh would be able to live there. He also stated that if the conditions prevailing in West Punjab did not change, it was just possible that four crores of Muslims living in India may also have to leave for Pakistan. He also admitted that since the forces, too, had been divided on communal basis, such developments were perhaps inevitable. It was, however, decided at the conference that the representatives of West Punjab and East Punjab should between themselves consider the question of giving option to the Government servants to serve in West Punjab or East Punjab. A conference was, therefore, called at Amritsar to consider if it would be possible for Hindu and Sikh Government servants to remain in West Punjab and for Muslim Government servants to continue to live in East Punjab. Sardar Swaran Singh on behalf of the East Punjab



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Government reached Amritsar at the appointed time, but no one came on behalf of the West Punjab Government. After two or three hours, a telephonic message was received from their representatives expressing their inability to come on that day. No date was afterwards fixed to consider this matter. In spite of our best efforts, the matter remained undecided until migration of people on a large scale started from one side to the other. Despite the fact, that the Boundary Force had given assurances that there would be no more riots and killing, there was no abatement in the communal fury and people suffered a great deal while migrating from one side to the other. It cannot be gainsaid that the Boundary Force did not do its work honestly. But so far as I think, Sir, despite all the sufferings and losses that our people had to undergo and despite the havoc wrought by communal disturbances, the partition of the Punjab saved us and by saving us it saved India as a whole.

Well, Sir, if the Cabinet Mission Plan had been accepted, the whole of the Punjab would have been to-day under the heels of Muslim rule. After having had a foretaste of Muslim rule in West Punjab, we can well realize what would have been our plight if the whole of the Punjab had been included in Pakistan. It is for this reason, Sir, that I think that the partition of the Punjab, despite the heavy losses that we have suffered, has saved us from extinction. This is the verdict that history will record about the effects of the partition of the Punjab. May I ask my hon. Friends who now hold the opinion that partition should not have been accepted as to why they did not say so when in March, 1947, riots first started in Rawalpindi, Abbottabad and Campbellpur and then in Lahore and Amritsar?

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** You were responsible for all that happened.

**Premier :** It has been alleged, Sir, that the responsibility for the partition rests upon my shoulders. I submit, Sir, that a more wrong allegation could not have been made against me.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** It is absolutely correct.

**Premier :** Sir, whatever I said or did in connection with the partition of the Punjab had the full approval of my leader and I am satisfied that whatever I did, I did in the discharge of what I considered to be my duty. To those who hold me responsible for the partition, I might say that even if this were correct, I would not be ashamed of



it since. I still think that partition was in the best interests of the country, in the circumstances in which it was placed. My brethren who blame me for disturbances forget that they themselves could not stop them in spite of their best efforts, even though they were living in Lahore. The cause of these riots were deep-laid and no one could stop them because they were a part of a pre-meditated and planned scheme. When in February, 1947, a propaganda campaign was launched by the Muslim League and when processions were taken out and slogans of 'making Pakistan by force' were being shouted in bazars, why did our friends keep quiet at that time? Riots started only when the representatives of Hindus and Sikhs announced that they would never allow Pakistan to come into being. The only reason for this allegation against me that I was responsible for disturbances or for the partition can be that I joined others in expressing myself against the creation of Pakistan. But, Sir, has not every citizen the right of freedom of expression? Then how can I be blamed for that? Even after experiencing the sort of treatment that was meted out to us by the Muslims, if my friends are of the opinion that the Punjab should not have been partitioned, I may tell them that if they had accepted the demand of Muslims for Pakistan when they were agitating for it, it would have been much better. (*Cries of Hear, hear, from Treasury benches*).

Sir, I know that the responsibility of this catastrophe following the partition of the province directly or indirectly falls on the Government but the trend of events and the force of circumstances in which the partition was accepted, I think, it was justifiable and to the best interests of the country. I cannot help saying that the Government of India provided all facilities for the population to migrate. Nobody can say that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru did not try to facilitate the migration of our nationals from Western Pakistan. The Government of India endeavoured to the best of its ability and utilised all the resources at its command to solve the manifold complicated problems arising out of the partition of the province. We shall be guilty of blackest ingratitude if we do not pay high tributes to the Government of India for rendering remarkable service at this critical juncture.

Some people often indulge in vicious propaganda that they will secure back the lands left by them in the West Punjab by force. I fully appreciate the feelings of bitterness harboured by the sufferers from Pakistan but it is not for us to say such things as such matters of high policy are to be decided by the Dominion Government. We should refrain from harping on such issues.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann :** Who said that we shall take the lands by force ?

**Premier :** If you read the newspapers and hear the speeches you will find that much propaganda is going on to attack Pakistan. But I will say that such irresponsible utterances should discontinue because so far as the East Punjab Government is concerned such course of action is outside the scope of its functions. It depends wholly upon the policy of Government of India. For our part we can say that we are always prepared to settle all matters with them amicably. We have always been in the past negotiating all matters with them in the Inter Dominion Conferences, Implementation Committee and Partition Committee, with feelings of brotherhood. My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh will place before you the decisions upon certain matters affecting both the provinces. It has been said that the Government have not been able to provide services to all the displaced Government servants of the West Punjab. I may say that when the partition took place, it was decided that the Gazetted Government Officers could opt for any Dominion and it was our moral duty to provide them with service. But so far as the case of non-gazetted Government servants is concerned, no such agreement was arrived at. But for our part we have made our best efforts to absorb these displaced Government servants in Government services. Besides, criticism is levelled against the Government that it has not given fair representation to the residents of East Punjab in Government services. I confess that it is true, but it was mainly due to the fact that the Government tried its best to absorb the displaced Government servants first in its administration. In December 1948 we decided to fill up the vacancies in the following proportion :—

Displaced Government servants or displaced persons	25 per cent.
Ex-Government Servants	25 per cent.
By selection	50 per cent.

In the Civil Supplies Department, I would give the figures showing the percentage of persons recruited from amongst the residents of East Punjab in some of the districts :—

1. Amritsar	57 per cent
2. Hoshiarpur	58 per cent
3. Ferozepore	54 per cent
4. Kangra	92 per cent

Except in the four districts mentioned above, the number of the displaced persons who were employed is greater in the other districts. Only some employees of the Irrigation Department are still without work because we have not as many canals here as left in the West Punjab. So far as the displaced Local Board teachers are concerned, it has been decided to give them preference and instructions have been issued by the Government to the heads of all schools that recruitment should be made from amongst the displaced teachers by removing the untrained staff. Moreover, Government have instructed them to employ additional staff by recruiting the displaced teachers. Government have been informed that in many cases jobs were offered to these displaced teachers but they did not accept as they were unwilling to go to different places to take up employments. Efforts have also been made to give them the old grades.

It has been suggested to me that it would have been better if any displaced member had been given the charge of the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Minister. I really appreciate the suggestion, but I would like to make it clear that we work in a team spirit and think it our primary duty to help the refugees who have suffered so much after the partition of the province.

In one respect I am also a displaced person because I used to live in Lahore, but from the other point of view I am not a sufferer because I had no property which I could have lost. I fully appreciate 5 P. M. the difficulties of displaced persons. Most of the decisions in this connection are taken by the Emergency Committee or the Cabinet. Questions of policy are decided by the Cabinet as a whole and not by one Minister. Government of India is also consulted by us, because the problem of displaced persons concerns the whole country. Hindus and Sikhs not only of the West Punjab, but also of Sind, North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and East Bengal had to leave their homes. These people are living in all the provinces, and States in the Dominion of India. The Governments of all these parts of India hold conferences and try to find solution of this important problem. For this reason, nobody should think that if this problem had been entrusted to a Minister, who was himself a displaced person, it would have been tackled better. We are jointly responsible for our work. If there is some deficiency, we are all to blame for it, and if we are doing good work, the credit goes to all of us.

There are two or three things about which I wish to say something. It has been suggested that it would have been better if the Government gave one thousand rupees to each family and told its members to go where

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they liked and to do what they desired. It has been said that we could liquidate Relief Camps by acting in this manner. I, however, think that the task of rehabilitation cannot be accomplished by merely advancing money. When people came from Pakistan, houses of Muslims were lying vacant in the East Punjab. They were permitted to occupy any house they came across and the regular allotment of these houses was postponed. We should not be oblivious of the difficulty, with which we are now faced in this matter. In several cases, where allotment has been made, the allottees have not been able to get possession of the houses allotted to them. Moreover, the number of available houses in the East Punjab is much smaller than the number of displaced families who have to be provided shelter.

Then, Sir, it has been said that these houses are not being repaired. From whom should the Government recover the amount they may have to spend in carrying out the repairs? Still, minor repairs wherever necessary have been got done. Eleven thousand such houses have been repaired. An agreement has now been reached for the sale of or exchange of evacuee property. Under these conditions, from whom will the Government recover the amount spent on repairs?—When the number of available houses in the East Punjab is too short to meet our requirements, it will not be advisable for the Government to pay one thousand rupees to each family putting up in the Camps. Where shall these families go and live? It should not be thought that everybody can engage himself in business and will be able to start a shop with one thousand rupees. Already there is rivalry between the businessmen of East Punjab and those who came from West Punjab and started their shops here. If everybody could take to business, the businessmen of East Punjab would be displaced from their professions. The task of rehabilitation cannot be accomplished by asking people to go and settle where they like. When the Rehabilitation Department was asked to state the number of shops required by the displaced persons, the report received from it revealed that there was a shortage of ten thousand shops in the province. The persons who have gone to other provinces were not taken into account, when calculating the number of shops required.

The Government asked all the able-bodied persons living in Relief Camps, to do some work, which the Government undertook to provide them, failing which they would not be supplied free ration. This induced a considerable number of persons to take to some work, but still there are a large number of them, who cannot do the type of work, which the Government can provide. Some persons, for example, can only run shops,

but these are not available. At present there are about two and a half lakh persons living in relief camps, including Kurukshetra Camp. To be exact, their number is 2,39,000. Out of these 1,91,000 persons are supplied free ration. About 48,000 persons, comprising nearly 8,000 families purchase their own ration. The heads of families earn their bread by doing one work or another, but for want of residential accommodation they have to live in the camps.

About the suggestion made for construction of houses the position is this. The number of houses abandoned by Muslim evacuees is 110,000. It means about 660,000 persons are living in these houses. 164,000 persons have taken refuge in Pepsu Union. We have constructed about 4000 houses in the new townships established by us. We are going to allot 7000 building sites on which about 66,000 persons will be settled. Another scheme has been submitted to the Government of India which is under their consideration. When that scheme is approved, 6150 building sites will be made available to the public. Out of these, the Government will construct houses on 615 plots and the rest will be given to the displaced persons for building their own houses. 36,000 persons will be able to live in these houses.

The people who have been allotted sites will be given loans for building houses. So long as they are not able to build houses we are prepared to provide them with tents. In addition to this we will be able to settle about one and a half lakh displaced persons in the Capital.

We have decided to set up three new townships at Faizabad, Bahadur Garh and Sonipat. For the plan of Faizabad township Government has already advertised and whosoever submits the best plan will be awarded a prize. The township will be built in accordance with this plan. Each of these three townships will provide for 1,25,000 souls. About sixty thousand people will find shelter at Rajpura (Pepsu). In this way a total number of thirteen lakh people will be resettled in towns. But we yet have to think of 44,000 persons who have to be supplied with houses. It is possible that many of them might like to go to villages when they are allotted land. If they go to the villages we shall help them with money and material for building new houses as the old ones belonging to the Muslims have been rendered unserviceable for want of repairs and by misuse.

One of my hon. Friends remarked that we were doing nothing for the Harijan displaced brethren. It was pleaded that land should be given to them. I think the House is aware of the fact that land was



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given to about five thousand families on temporary basis. But now in accordance with the quasi permanent scheme land will be given to Harijans who owned land in the West Punjab. If it be suggested that land should also be given to people who were not owners. I am sorry to say that it is not possible for the Government to do so, when we haven't got enough land for resettling owners the very idea of giving land to those who did not have any appears absurd and cannot be entertained. Of course for the benefit of those Harijans who do not get land and desire to pursue some profession in towns we are preparing a scheme according to which they will be given plots for building houses in urban areas. This is not all. Arrangements are being made to give them vocational training. At Jullundur they have established some Co-operative Societies and those of my hon. Friends who were sceptical about the success of this scheme can go and see things for themselves, if they so desire. They will be simply surprised to see the wonderful work which is being done on co-operative basis and the way Government is helping them. Referring to the financial help an hon. Member said that in accordance with the advance of the Government of India we were giving this help only to Co-operative Societies and not to individuals. I am glad to inform the House that Government of India have accepted our proposal and in future when work is not possible on co-operative basis loans will be given to individuals.

Sir, some of the hon. Members have pointed out that we are helping industries only at those places from where few Muslims have gone. I may in this connection submit that we desire to help all those displaced people who have settled in the cities and wish to earn their livelihood through industry. But this is not all that we are doing. We are taking very big strides in the direction of industrialization and have decided to set up six new industrial towns at Bahadurgarh, Sonipat, Panipat, Jagadhri, Khanna and Rupar. At each of these six places Government will acquire two square miles of land for industrial purposes. In addition to living accommodation arrangements are being made for supply of electricity. As it may take some time to make use of energy from Nangal we intend to set up thermal plants and orders for purchase of these plants have already been placed. Places where electricity is being generated by the Electric Supply Companies, more electricity will be produced and supplied by these companies as they have been asked to instal thermal plants for which loans are being advanced to them. Land is being acquired and some applications for loans have also been received. At some places plots of land have already been allotted to industrialists. For example at Panipat which was and still is the home of weaving industry



land has been set aside for erecting weaving sheds and building residential houses. At Ludhiana and Jullundur, fifty acres of land have been acquired at each place for the use of industrialists and plots will be given to those people who like to go and work there.

Sir, it is very easy to criticize but it is difficult to accomplish a task. We who have been called upon to do this service of rehabilitating people only know of the difficulties we have to face. We have no magic wand or an Allahdin's lamp by the help of which we may be able to do things as and when our hon. Friends want them. If houses are to be built they would be built if building material is available and the process of building must take time. I would, therefore, request my hon. Critics kindly to exercise a little of patience.

Sir, a proposal has come from some quarters that waste land should be reclaimed and distributed among the refugees. I may inform the House that we have already decided to reclaim one lakh acres of land belonging to the evacuees as also of the residents of this place every year. For this purpose we have got 29 tractors at Karnal where we have to reclaim ten thousand acres.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Sir, I had suggested that Government need not bother about reclaiming the land but should distribute it among the refugees as it is to the extent of 25 lakh acres. People will do the job of reclaiming themselves.

**Premier :** I am surprised to find that the proposal is coming from my hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh where as those who want land are silent. I may tell hon. Members that all cultivable waste has been accounted for and shall be distributed among those who are entitled to get land. But if somebody says that private persons will be able to reclaim it without the help of Government I must say that the suggestion does not appeal to me. However Government has decided to reclaim about five lakh acres including one and a half lakh acres of evacuee land by means of tractors and to set up 800 tube wells in that land.

But the trouble is that the material required for this purpose is not available. We have, therefore, decided with the International Bank for the supply of the necessary material. They have agreed to start this supply very shortly and I hope that the work of reclamation of waste land will be started by the end of this year. We have yet to decide regarding the acquiring of land which will be reclaimed by means of tractors. Whether the Government should pay to the owners of that land, or should do so

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otherwise, is yet to be decided. The method of the recovery of the expenses incurred on the reclamation of this waste land and the compensation to be had by the Government from the owners have also to be decided upon. These things will be shortly brought before the House, in the form of a Bill.

Another point which I would like to place before the House is regarding the training of skilled labour, because all the people cannot be absorbed in business.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann :** Is there any time limit fixed by the Government for the implementation of these schemes ?

**Premier :** If any of my hon. Friends thinks that he can do these things in less time, I am prepared to vacate my seat for him. How can we fix any time limit for putting our schemes into practice, under the present circumstances ? This can be done only if we should have all the material that we require. But the difficulty is that we have not got the necessary material for the implementation of our schemes. In this connection, I would like to submit that the Government of India allotted us 4,000 wagons of coal, but due to the shortage of trains, we have actually received only 140 wagons. Again we had a scheme for the construction of houses which were to be completed by the middle of March, 1949, but due to the scarcity of the building material, the construction of these houses will be completed sometime in April now.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** I want to know, Sir, whether the hon. Premier will give the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation an opportunity to say something or he will, himself say everything ?

**Premier :** My hon. Friend need not worry about that. I assure him that such suggestions cannot create any difference between me and my colleagues. Whatever I say, I say on the responsibility of my colleagues.

As regards the factories it has been said that the factories at Batala are not getting their quota of material. I may inform the House, that just today I received a deputation of the industrialists of Batala. I will read out their demands for the information of the house.

1. No lease money to be charged on repairs etc.
2. For the remaining period 16% reduction be made in the lease money.
3. That quota be granted to all factories, whether or not they were quota holders in 1943, on some equitable basis.

In this connection, I would like to make it clear that the factories left over by the Muslims, are getting their usual quota. We are unable to increase that. We have, however, asked them to organise themselves because the organised industrial concerns get their quota straight from the Government of India. They have made two or three other demands. But their main demand is regarding their paying of only two months' rent instead of that of a year. I shall put it up before my colleagues for decision. But the Government made it quite clear to them at the time of the submitting of tenders, that rent for whole of the year would be charged. In spite of that, some, people offered to pay very big sums. We, however, knew that it would not be profitable for them. We asked them to form themselves into groups. But they could not come together and thus we were helpless. On the other hand, there were people who blamed us for allotting the factories to our relatives and friends. We, therefore, had to invite tenders. It was up to those people to get the factories or not.

I want to place one thing more before the House. I have said that everybody cannot be employed in business. Some people must engage themselves in the work of industrial production. For this purpose, the Government has started training centres for skilled labour. These skilled labourers can either work in the factories or they can start their own small-scale industries. This vocational training is imparted through two agencies. Firstly there is the Regional Employment Exchange. It has made arrangements for the training of 4,000 persons. The course of training is of six months. Some of the persons have gone out after completing their training while others are still under training.

Besides, the Industries Department is also training persons for various vocations. The training, in these centres, is imparted not only to men, but also to women. There was a flourishing hosiery industry at Ludhiana before the partition of the country. But with the migration of the Muslims, this industry has suffered a set-back. In order to train people for this industry, we opened training centres in the relief camps. But we could train only a limited number of people. The Industries Department, has, therefore, opened training centres for hosiery at three places, namely Ludhiana, Sonipat and one place more, which I do not remember now. I may inform the House that the hon. Premier of our country, at the time of his visit to Sonipat and Panipat, greatly appreciated the work of these vocational centres.

Sir, a model town is under construction at Nilokheri in Karnal district. An able Engineer from Sylhet requested the Prime Minister

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of India that he would like to start some work as an experiment. The Prime Minister gave him a piece of land in Karnal. This land belonged to Government of India. Under the able guidance of this Engineer the work has been started. The land has been cleared of the forest and now hundreds of men are working there. So far he has not been able to start a dairy but a poultry is being run. It is hoped to settle ten thousand persons there. The work will be on co-operative lines and all the residents will work to produce articles.

In camps also vocational training is imparted. There are ten spinning centres, each having about one thousand spinning wheels. I do not remember the exact figure but in all there are more than eight thousand spinning wheels at work. Thus production of cloth has increased.

**An hon. Member:** But still the cloth is not available and people are crying for it.

**Sardar Partap Singh :** That is their habit.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, may I ask the hon. Premier to tell us something about the Standard Acre. Public at large has misgivings about it.

**Premier :** Sardar Partap Singh might tell about it in his speech today.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** He will put us off just as you have done.

**Premier :** There are those unfortunate women and children who have none to look after them. Arrangements have been made for them in Ram Colony, Hoshiarpur. Proper facilities for the education of children of school going age have been provided and provision of work to women has been made. There are eight such centres and five more will start soon. Children are kept in Ashrams. A large number of women who were recovered from Pakistan have been taken by their families and relatives. Earlier it was thought that the relatives won't take these women to their respective homes. But it is a matter of great satisfaction that they have been accepted without any hesitation or objection. The Government is in correspondence with these unfortunate women in order to keep in touch with them and to listen to any grievances and sufferings that they might come across. But so far we have received no complaints of any ill-treatment to them.

All possible help is being extended to the sons and daughters of displaced persons who are studying in various places. Complaints reach us from time to time that the loans do not reach the students. I would like to point out that these loans are given through the Heads of the Departments concerned. For example the Director of Health Services distributes loans to the medical students. Most of these students are studying outside the Province, because we could not accommodate all of them here. Engineering students had to go to Engineering College, Roorkee because we were unable to make arrangements for them here. Agriculture College was at Amritsar, now it has been brought to Ludhiana. Veterinary College is at Hissar. The Engineering School at Rasool is now at Gurdaspur. So all possible arrangements have been made for the students to continue their studies. Art Colleges have also received the first instalment but so far they have not received the second one. According to the rules and regulations formulated by the Government of India, students in other provinces are helped through the Government of the Province they are in. There are certain students in Punjab whose parents are outside the Province. In such cases financial help is extended and the bonds from parents can be got signed in due course.

There are some persons who cannot do any work. The Government is spending on them and will continue doing so. Suitable occupations will be created for them and till that time, we will bear expenditure on them. These are some of our efforts in the direction of resettlement of displaced persons. We try our best to find work for them, but these are poor consolations for them who lived in palaces and 'Kothies' and who were at respectable jobs. Anyhow we do whatever we can. It is not possible for East Punjab Government to compensate fully the displaced persons for their losses. Of course, we have been asking the Government of India and will continue doing so with all the emphasis at our command to compensate losses. We have approached the Central Government to give us land at any place in India where our refugee brethren could go and settle there. As a matter of fact we had deputed a Committee to Andamans and this Committee has already submitted its report to the Government. We are urging upon the Central Government to rehabilitate those of our brethren who want to go and settle there.

Through you, Sir I would like to tell my refugee brethren that we deem it our bounden duty to do all that lies in our power for their welfare, and we are doing it and will do it in future too. (*Hear, hear*) We are not doing this to oblige them. They are our brethren. They are within their rights to come and settle here in this province. As their brethren it is



[Premier]

our bounden duty to help them as much as we can. The work that we have done so far in this connection has been accomplished as a matter of duty. If we have not been able to do certain things for them, my brethren should take it for granted that it was not within our power to do those things and for that I hope they will excuse us. Through you, Sir, I would request them that they should not have any anxiety whatsoever. (Cheers).

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Premier in the course of his speech referred to the evacuee property, and said that the expenditure incurred in connection with the repairs of the houses of those Muslims, who have left the province would be a huge burden upon us. Wherefrom is the Government to get that amount? I would like to know whether the amount spent in this direction can be recovered from this evacuee property if not, why not? If there is no such provision in the Evacuee Property Act, an amending Bill can be brought to this effect in this House.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, I shall not take long but there are certain matters upon which I feel I am called upon to say something. In regard to the criticism that has been levelled on the demand relating to Rehabilitation, certain matters concerning the inter-Dominion negotiations and agreements have also been referred to on the floor of this House. There are, Sir, certain aspects of these inter-Dominion negotiations and agreements about which it will not be proper to make any reference in a provincial legislature. The fundamental thing however, that we have to keep in mind is that while dealing with inter-Dominion matters, there are certain methods of arriving at agreements and there are certain ways which are adopted in the course of negotiations.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** On a point of order, Sir. Our national language is Hindustani and we naturally expect hon. Members to speak in that language.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not in my power to compel any hon. Member to speak in a particular language. English is also one of the languages in which the hon. Members can speak. It has been provided under our rules.



**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I was saying, Sir, that matters which determine the relationship between two Dominions are very delicate and we have to adopt a certain amount of caution. So far as the work of partition is concerned it has been a very colossal task indeed because the Government was not only faced with the problem of effecting a satisfactory partition of Government assets, they had on their hands the very intricate problem of effecting some sort of settlement in regard to the properties which have been left by Hindus and Sikhs in the West Pakistan and by the Muslim evacuees in this part of the country. So far as the partition of Government assets is concerned, I can say with considerable amount of confidence that this problem has been tackled and tackled with considerable amount of success. We have favourably effected the partition of almost all assets—it may be that with regard to certain smaller items particularly of the nature of moveable articles, we had to suffer some losses because of the very fact that we were the seceding party and when moveable property is to be transferred some loss is likely to accrue to the party which is separating and seceding from the bigger unit. Along with that was the geographical disadvantage which we had, resulting from the demarcation of the boundary—the capital having fallen in the West Punjab—there were certain things which could not be removed. But, Sir, taking the over-all picture of the whole partition of the Government assets, we have not come off so badly. With regard to the ratio for the division of assets, there was a very sharp difference of opinion between the East Punjab and the West Punjab and the matter was taken to the Arbitral Tribunal and the ratio which has been ultimately decreed in our favour is quite a fair one. Apart from that we have got a considerable amount in the form of assets which resulted on account of the partition of canal assets. In this connection although we were advised that probably we would be well advised not to go beyond the principle of book values, we agitated the matter and the Arbitral Tribunal ultimately gave a decree in our favour and we have got an amount to the tune of over 20 crores on that score alone. That amount is capable of being realised because there are certain securities which were held by the joint Punjab and we can take a share from these. This can be a solution of our financial difficulties to a very great extent.

Apart from the question of the partition of the assets of the Government there have been a very large number of problems which had not been faced by any Government, if we take into consideration the magnitude of these problems. I need hardly recall Sir, that on a small scale migration of population took place between Greek and Turkey but the number involved was much less and the value of property on either

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side was much less as compared to the numbers and value of property which is involved here. The problems which the Governments have to face, as a result of this migration of millions of people on either side, are really very complex. The right of property on either side is there. This is also a well known fact with regard to the property that the property that has been left by Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab and Western Pakistan is very much in value than the property that has been left by the Muslims who have gone over from this part to Pakistan. In face of this to negotiate an agreement which may stand the test of scrutiny is I would submit not a very easy task. Faced with this and faced with the situation that the West Punjab citizens and the West Punjab Government now after the partition were actually in possession of property which in value is much more than the property left by the Muslims on this side, we had to negotiate an agreement which we thought should minimise the disadvantages to which our population has been put. With regard to this property there were two categories—Urban and Rural. I may say Sir, that the basis in all these negotiations has been that notwithstanding the migration of any section of population it has been agreed that the right of ownership still subsists. How the best advantage can be made of that right of ownership is a separate question and this is a problem which has not yet been tackled, but this fundamental principle has been agreed upon between the two Dominions that the Hindus and the Sikhs who have left Western Pakistan continue to be the owners of the property urban as well as rural which they have left. On the other side similarly Musalmans who have left East Punjab—from which evacuation has taken place not in a considerable degree—they continue to be the owners of this bit of property. Therefore, Sir, to suggest that we have acquiesced, either directly or indirectly in the proposition that whatever has been left by the Hindus and Sikhs on the other side is to be compared with whatever has been left here by the Muslims is far from truth. That Sir, is a proposition to which we have never agreed. We have maintained that no lasting agreement between the two Dominions can be struck and can be arrived at which does not take into consideration this difference in the values of property which exists today between the property left by our unfortunate sufferers in Pakistan and that left by Muslims on this side. As to how soon we can realize this difference and as to what should be the form in which this can be realized and to what should be the responsibility of either Pakistan Government or the Government of India with regard to making good all this huge difference is a matter which is still pending negotiations.

We on our side on behalf of the East Punjab Government have always taken the position that it is the responsibility of the Governments to make good this loss and we have always pressed that point not only with the Government of India but also we have plainly told the representatives of the Pakistan Government in the various conferences that have taken place, that unless these differences are accounted for no satisfactory and no lasting decision is possible. In view of that to suggest that we have in any way surrendered any rights of the unfortunate sufferers is I would like to say an uncharitable criticism that has been levelled against us.

From the very nature of the problem Sir, I am precluded from going into the intricate provisions of the agreement that has been arrived at between the two Dominions with regard to the treatment of the properties. There are certain aspects of this agreement which on the face of it appear to be of a character which are not obviously advantageous to us. I do not claim any infallibility for this agreement. There may be clauses where we have not been able to negotiate an agreement with the Pakistan Government to our entire satisfaction, but I assure this honourable House, through you, that we have had all points which have been raised now, before us while negotiating this agreement. The main agreement relating to the compensation and the making good of the losses is still to be arrived at. This is only a working arrangement and only an effort to find out ways and means to actually reach the position where the problem may become sizeable and it may be possible to decide as to what are the differences and what is the best way for making good these differences.

Now, Sir, as regards these agreements, if we take them bit by bit it may not be possible to assess their real value, but taken as a whole it will be appreciated that under the circumstances it was probably the best agreement that was arrived at between the Government of India and the Pakistan Government. However, we have put forward fresh points to the Government of India and we are likely to take part again in the Inter Dominion Conference in an effort to tackle this problem of urban property at governmental level. It may be possible to persuade the Pakistan Government to agree to this.

Then with regard to the rents. I know, Sir, that on this matter there is a considerable volume of criticism. We have been accused of charging rates higher than those which are being charged by the Pakistan Government. But, Sir, they are based on an agreement which has been arrived at between the two Governments and we are anxious to see that the same rates of rent are charged by the Pakistan Government on

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the property left by our Hindu and Sikh brethren. It is difficult for the East Punjab Government to settle rates of rent whether with regard to the urban or rural property on terms which may be very easy from the point of view of the refugees. But, Sir, the point which has weighed with us is not so much the immediate advantage of giving short terms relief to our people by reducing rent whether on agricultural or urban property but we have to take a long range view of this subject in the hope that the Pakistan Government will make good their terms of charging rent on agricultural as well as urban property on the rates which have been agreed upon. I know there are serious doubts entertained in certain quarters which I cannot discount easily and where fear is expressed that Pakistan is not likely to abide by this agreement. But as you are aware, Sir, we have to proceed on the basis that an agreement which has been negotiated at Governmental level, will ultimately be honoured. But if there are breaches of this agreement, Government will do all they can for its enforcement. I think the Government of India is strong enough to enforce them. Therefore with regard to this matter, we should not take a narrow and short term view but a broad and a long term view. It is hoped that the Government of India with whom we have always pressed the point that the responsibility to make good the losses is theirs, will be able to arrive at an agreement with the Pakistan Government which will not be to the detriment of our unfortunate people who have left their all on the other side of the boarder. There are other delicate aspects of the matter also and there is a possibility of unhealthy repercussions on the other side resulting from our action. I however, want to assure the hon. Members of the House that I am prepared to request the hon. Premier that this matter be discussed informally in the party meeting. After that we will bring a fresh vigour to bear upon the Government of India to bring round the Pakistan Government. (*Hear, hear*).

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation:** (The hon. Sardar Partap Singh): Sir, I am glad that the hon. Premier and the hon. Home Minister have fully explained in their speeches the position and the policy of the Government with regard to the most of the problems connected  
6 P. M. with the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. I would like to add a little to what they have said. I think, Sir, that reply has already been given to the question asked by my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar as to why 2½ lakhs of refugees are still living in camps. The Government is trying that before the rainy season sets in, these will be converted into work centres and barracks for refugees will be constructed. It is absolutely wrong to say that we had no proper

planning but it always takes time to put the scheme into operation as the Finance Department's sanction has to be obtained first. You know, Sir, that Government's work cannot be executed on an individual's responsibility but the scheme has to meet the approval of the Finance Department. As remarked by the hon. Premier during the course of his speech, the things would come round slowly, but will not take long. It is the Government's plan to provide a house to every refugee in the East Punjab.

**Shri Kedar Nath Saigal :** *Yeh Sheikh Chilli ki baten hain.*

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** My hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal has pointed out that about 9 lakhs of people are huddled up in the houses and the worst conditions of congestion are seen in every city. We have also to disperse about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of people from the refugee camps. Such difficulties cannot be overcome immediately. The grievances are of such a type which no Government can immediately remove. They should know that construction of houses could not keep pace with the increase of population and consequently the housing problem was bound to deteriorate. The task is beset with great difficulties and it is not simple as my hon. Friend considers to give satisfactory accommodation to all the refugees. Perhaps the Government of "*Sheikh Chillis*" might have found out an immediate solution of this problem. If ever a Government by "*Sheikh Chillis*" would be constituted, I am sure my friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal would be the Premier. Sir, the number of houses left by the Muslim evacuees in East Punjab is 1,10,000 and they are mostly hovels.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Sir, may I know if the word "*Sheikh Chilli*" is parliamentary.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** I will also be the member of that august House of which Shri Kedar Nath Saigal would be the hon. Premier. Sir, I was submitting that the houses of Muslim emigrants to Pakistan numbered 1,10,000 without any proper means of sanitation and ventilation. Whereas Hindus and Sikhs in the West Punjab had left spacious buildings and mansions. In every such bungalow hundreds of people could have been accommodated. The hon. Member has suggested that we could requisition houses to accommodate these refugees but the Government did not consider it advisable to exercise powers of requisitioning. With all these difficulties, Sir, you may imagine that the problem is simply staggering and it would be puerile to think that we could cleanse the Augean Stables. If the people who had come from the West Punjab



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had given full co-operation and support to the Government, I think most of the problems would have been solved. But they instead of helping us in our work had gone and settled in Delhi and were indulging in the pastime of backbiting and creating doubts in the minds of the members of the Indian Government. A Punjabi is known for his bravery, wisdom and forbearance but unfortunately he is second to none in backbiting. If these people had with their buoyant energy and dynamism co-operated with us, we were confident to steer clear the ship of our state through the present stormy seas and rocks to the desired destiny. But these people instead of rallying round the Government carried false tales to the Central Government that only one class of people was given facilities in the matter of rehabilitation and that law and order was at its lowest ebb here. If they had not adopted this course, I am sure, that the East Punjab Government would have been able to get more things done with the help of the Central Government.

So far as the allotment of factories is concerned, I would like to inform the House that the number of factories left by the displaced industrialists in the West Punjab was 20,000 while the Muslim evacuees left behind only 1,500 factories in the East Punjab. So it is but natural that the Government could not allot these factories to all the displaced industrialists. You will unhesitatingly agree with me, Sir, that Israel people had turned the sand into a paradise by their united efforts and if our people had stood by the Government in the efforts to rehabilitate them, I think they would have been very soon out of the wood. But unfortunately there is a large number of brothers of Miss Mayo in our province who would always try to malign the Government.

Now, Sir, I wish to explain the reasons for fixing 'standard acre'. If my hon. Friends wish that some persons should be placed at an advantage over others, we could have done without any system. It has been suggested that the colonists should be settled in their home districts. Should only those who were not colonists be settled in Ambala, Gurgaon, Karnal and Hissar districts? I, however, have as much regard for colonists as for others. It was decided to fix a standard acre, which has many good features, in order to avoid discrimination in making allotment. It is not intended that one person should have canal-irrigated land while that allotted to another may be on the bank of a river, which may wash away its crops every year. In order to avoid inequity, the system of having a standard acre was adopted. Rainfall, location, price of the land, maturity of the crop and all other relevant factors have been taken into



consideration while fixing a standard acre. As it has been fixed to do justice to everybody, there should be no opposition to it. Before criticising it, we should take a common-sense view of the whole position.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Before fixing standard acre, was the Central Government approached with a request to make up our deficiency in land? Were they asked to give us the crown land situated in various provinces of the country?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** Is there any Punjabi who would not have tried to obtain maximum land for the displaced persons? I assure you that we tried to obtain maximum land for the Punjabis, but the tales which our friends carry to the Central Government, make our task difficult. Some of our friends go and tell Ministers of the Central Government that the Punjabis will create trouble wherever they go. These things create difficulties in our way.

**Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** It is your weakness which is responsible for these things.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** It is easy to say so but the real difficulties are known to those, who have to fulfil their responsibility in this matter. In reply to our demand for allotting us land in the United Provinces, the Central Government pointed to the intensity of population there. We pointed out that the Punjabis would be useful in helping the 'Grow more food' campaign and would make the land more fertile. A considerable portion of crores of rupees, which the Government of India has to spend every year in importing food grains from abroad, could be saved if lands in other provinces were made available to us.

As regards the observation made by my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, I agree with him that by adopting the 'standard acre', it is not proposed to compensate the losses suffered in Pakistan. It is only a way of distributing the available land in an equitable manner. As the land which we have got is much less than our needs, we had to devise a plan of distributing it so that the displaced land-holders might have some means of income.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar said that no cut should be imposed in the case of the land-owners who owned five acres or less in the West Punjab. I also wish that it could be so, but where are we to get the necessary land from? It has also been suggested that there should be lesser cut in the case of those, who owned between five and

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ten acres. I have been a student of Economics and I can say on the basis of my knowledge that five acres is an uneconomic holding. I would suggest that the holdings of five acres or less should be wiped out. An overwhelming number of those who own up to five acres of land, do not cultivate it themselves. Even those who own between five and ten acres of land do not find it profitable to till it with their own hands. Those persons who own from ten to twenty acres usually cultivate it themselves, while big land-owners give their lands on lease. While in our country ninety per cent of land-owners have less than sixty acres, in the Western countries, it is considered a very small holding. We have to look after the interest of these ninety per cent land-owners, who are the back-bone of the whole system. The need of the hour is to strengthen holdings which range between ten and fifty acres. The number of land-holders who own between fifty and sixty acres is very small. If we were to impose income-tax on agricultural income, as laid down in a resolution passed by the Congress, a very small number of persons would be affected by it. The condition of peasantry in our province is deplorable. As submitted by me, an owner of five acres or less either leases it to somebody or himself takes more land on lease. If a cut is imposed on his allotment, he will have to take a little more land on lease. I also wish that there was no necessity of imposing any cut in the case of petty land-owner, but the difficulty is that the available land at our disposal is not sufficient. We are not acting with a view to compensate people for their losses. If some better way is suggested for making equitable distribution of available land, I shall gladly accept it.

Sir, referring to the mortgaged lands I have to submit that we have forwarded our recommendations to the Joint Rehabilitation Board and Sardar Tarlok Singh and Mr. Thapar have assured us that they will pursue the matter very vigorously. What is going to be the final fate of our recommendations is difficult to say at this stage as the strings of the purse are not in our own hands. Moreover there is little hitch as something must be done for those from whom mortgaged lands will be taken away. At any rate we have been assured that everything possible will be done in this connection. My hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar put me a question regarding the landless cultivators. I am to say that they formed quite a small percentage of our population and they had all been given something like ten acres of land. Under the new rehabilitation scheme they will doubtless go without land but I am sure that work will soon be found for them. There is going to be a very large number of people who get five or less than five acres and many of them shall not work with their own

hands. They will have to depend on these landless tillers as tenants. Besides this hon. Members must be aware that there is a great dearth of tenants in the East Punjab and there is no reason why the landless cultivators should not be absorbed. But we shall not rest content with this much and shall ask other provincial Governments to accommodate some of our people. Some land though I cannot definitely say how much as the Government of India has set aside some vast tracts for forest, will also be given to them for cultivation in Andamans and there should be no apprehension about this class of people.

My hon. Friend Sardar Joginder Singh remarked that none of the recommendations of the Rehabilitation Board had been accepted. This is wrong. There may be some recommendations which have not been adopted but I can tell him that a large number of them have been accepted. He further went on to say that I had failed to implement my promise regarding settling people, village, district, group or say bradri-wise. I think he is not correct in saying so. I certainly agree with him, that people should be settled in this way and I assure the House that I have made every possible attempt in this direction. But if after having been settled on these lines some person out of greed has gone away to Rohtak, Hissar or say Hoshiarpur to earn a little more and facing disappointment wishes to come back to his original place I may not be able to displace another man to accommodate him. My hon. Friend has also accused the Government for not acting with promptitude. But if I may be allowed to say so, he is again unjust. The House will agree with me that ideal rehabilitation cannot be brought about in the twinkling of an eye. After all claims had to be invited, verification of these claims had to be arranged, revenue papers were not to be had till November or December and similarly there were numerous other obstacles in our way. If hon. Members only exercise a little of patience, they will soon see East Punjab Government evolving a policy of rehabilitation which will be in accordance with the wishes of the refugees and in the general interest of the Province as a whole.

Some hon. Members criticized our rehabilitation scheme and said that zamindars of Lyallpur, Montgomery and even Sargodha were hard hit and that Government had been extra kind to people hailing from Gujrat, Mianwali etc. They went to the extent of saying that we had not studied this matter very carefully and like the Englishman had acted blindly in accordance with information available from the records. I may tell them that they are only labouring under a misunderstanding. There is no doubt that we have kept the old records in view but we have

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made more use of our common sense as action based purely on records would have gone very much against my friends. I certainly claim no perfection for our scheme but I have no hesitation in saying that it was not possible to evolve a better plan in the existing circumstances. I am confident that our valuation of land cannot be improved upon. I shall just for the benefit of the House quote figures to show that Government has not accorded any step motherly treatment to people coming from the Lyallpur side. During the period 1928-33, value of gross produce per acre and productivity index for Lyallpur is 54.1 and 338, for Samundri 48 and 300 and Toba Tek Singh 42.3 and 264. Against this corresponding figures for Lahore (*Manjha-Mitha*) are 51.12 and 320 but it will be noted that in spite of the people hailing from this place have not been treated better than those coming from Toba Tek Singh. It is also wrong to say that some portions of the lands of Dera Ghazi Khan and other places were inferior to those of any district etc. Figures for produce per acre and productivity index in respect of D. G. Khan (*Chaki Nehri*) Attock (*Chachh*) are 75.6/473 and 178.7/1116 respectively. So it will be seen that no favouritism has been shown to the Zamindars of these districts. While arriving at the valuation of lands we have kept in view all the various factors, for example, nature of the soil, rainfall, means of irrigation etc. and have tried to do justice to everybody. I would request my hon. Friends Dr. Lehna Singh, Shri Virendra and Shri Beharilal Chanana that they should not harbour any apprehensions about the rehabilitation scheme as it is calculated to do the greatest possible good to the province.

In the end I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Sardar Tarlok Singh and Mr. P. N. Thapar for the very useful help they have been giving us and for the hard work they have put in (*Cheers*).

Mr. Speaker : Question is.

That the item of Rs. 3,43,48,000 on account of relief of refugees be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

*The motion was lost.*

Mr. Speaker : Question is.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,31,74,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 57-MISCELLANEOUS.

*The motion was carried.*

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday 26th March, 1949.*

# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE 1ST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 26th March 1949.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE GARDENS

**\*847. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the gardens belonging to Hindus and Sikhs left in West Punjab are more in number than the gardens of Muslims left in East Punjab;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has decided that the gardens left by the Muslims in East Punjab should be given to those Hindus and Sikhs only, who owned gardens in West Punjab;
- (c) whether it is a fact that one S. Aziz Singh s/o S. Chattar Singh of Gujranwala has been allotted a garden in village Dhalkot, district Ambala;
- (d) whether the said S. Aziz Singh owned any garden in West Punjab;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that S. Aziz Singh has been allotted lands in Karnal and Ambala Districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Government have decided that evacuee gardens in East Punjab should be given in quasi-permanent allotment to displaced persons who owned gardens in West Punjab. In the temporary phase of rehabilitation, however, evacuee gardens were leased out by auction.
- (c) Yes, S. Aziz Singh and three others have a temporary allotment of 28 acres in village Dhulkot, Ambala district, of which 10 acres have guava trees.



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- (d) whether S. Aziz Singh had a garden in West Punjab is not known, but if, further particulars are furnished, the matter can be investigated.
- (e) S. Aziz Singh had an allotment in Karnal district which was cancelled.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it the general policy of the Government that gardens left by Muslims in the East Punjab should be given only to those displaced persons who owned gardens in the West Punjab ?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** That is the general policy. As far as possible gardens are given to persons within the area allocated to them. For example, if there is a garden in Rohtak, it will be given to a person settled in Rohtak. A man from Amritsar will not get it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if Sardar Aziz Singh had any garden in the West Punjab ? If not, why has his case been treated as a special case and a garden allotted to him ?

**Minister :** This is a temporary allotment. I can make further enquiries if the hon. Member is interested.

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#### DAMAGE TO KHARIF CROPS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

**\*875. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Kharif crop of 1948 in Hoshiarpur District almost failed due to excessive rains there;
- (b) whether it is a fact that it has seriously affected the refugees who had settled on land in that district ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Rabi crop 1948 could not be sown properly by the refugees over the entire allotted area due to absence of demarcation of the land and other factors ;
- (d) whether any representation has been made by the refugees of Garh Shanker tehsil (Hoshiarpur District) requesting that they be charged simple land revenue from them for the Rabi and Kharif crops of the year 1948 ;
- (e) What action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?



**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) No. The excessive rains did only partial damage.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes. Some representations have been received and are under consideration.
- (e) The damage done does not call for any special remission of rent.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** By whom was an enquiry made?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** By revenue officers.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** According to my information in some areas damage has been done to crops . . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is giving rather than seeking information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the Government give any idea of the partial damage that has been done to the crops due to excessive rains?

**Minister :** I want notice for that.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is it a fact that in Garh Shankar tahsil, allotments were made late and land could not be sown?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received any representation from the refugees of Garh Shankar tehsil for certain concessions?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied to that.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Can the Government give any rough idea of the damage done—whether it is one half or one fourth?

**Minister :** I cannot say anything off hand. If the hon. Member gives notice, enquiries will be made.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS IN DISTRICT ROHTAK

**\*727. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the mileage of new construction under major Roads, minor roads and village roads respectively that has been allotted to the Rohtak District under the Five Year Post War Plan together with the principle according to which this allotment has been made;

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh].

- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Rohtak-Gohana road is in an awful state of disrepair, what action, if any, Government has taken to remedy the matter ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sonapat-Gohana kacha road passing through unirrigated and fertile tract of land is the main source of supply of agricultural commodities to the flourishing mandis of Sonapat and Gohana and that 10 miles of it from Sonapat on which a village road was constructed experimentally has since long gone into disrepair owing to heavy bullock-cart traffic ;
- (d) when does the Government propose to metal and tar the above mentioned to road ;
- (e) whether the Government has received any representation from the people of village Kaloi in Rohtak Tehsil to the effect that a village road be constructed between this village and Bhalot situated on the Rohtak Sonapat pacca road ;
- (f) what action, if any, has been taken in this direction ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

- (a) The five year Post War Programme of Construction of roads is under consideration with Government.

The principle adopted in the allocation of new mileages to the various districts is that, on the completion of this road programme, the road mileages in the various districts will generally be in the same ratio as the average of the population and area of a district to the whole province.

- (b) Yes. It is proposed to recondition Rohtak-Gohana road during this programme.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The metalling of Sonapat-Gohana road has been included in the programme recently drawn up. If and when that programme is approved, priority of construction of this road will be fixed vis-a-vis other roads.
- (e) No such representation has so far been received.
- (f) Does not arise in view of answer to part (e).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know what roads have been completed and what roads are under completion according to the Post-war 5 Years Plan ?

**Minister for Public Works :** Five Years Programme cannot be completed in one year.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** There must be some plan according to which some work must have been taken in hand during the first year.

**Minister :** It has begun.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Which work has been taken in hand according to that plan ?

**Minister :** I gave that information in reply to a question some days ago.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is Gohana-Sonepat road included in that programme ?

**Minister :** It has been included. I may, however, inform the hon. Member that the Postwar Programme has to be revised. The Finance Department has to examine the question of the reduction of expenditure as anti-inflation measure and after the examination the question of which roads to be taken up and which to be left out will be considered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** According to that revised programme, is work on this road likely to be taken in hand ?

**Minister :** It all depends upon the priority this road receives.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What are those roads which have been given priority ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member will appreciate that it is not possible for anybody to remember the details about all roads in the Province.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am not asking for all the roads in the Province. I want to know which of the roads in the Rohtak district have been given priority ?

**Minister :** I have already informed him that Rohtak-Gohana road will be reconditioned according to programme.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What about Rohtak ?

**Minister :** Priority is given to those roads which connect a district with another district. Within a district a road will only connect a town with a town or a village with a village. The hon. Member will appreciate that it is definitely more useful to connect a district with another district first than to connect a village with a village.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** The hon. Minister just said that the Five Years' Road Programme has been revised. May I know whether it is a fact that all the roads which were selected by his predecessor, Chaudhri Lahri Singh, have now been given up ?

**Minister :** It is wrong.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Whether the Hansi-Jind road was originally included in the priority list and now it has been dropped out ?

**Minister :** I may inform the hon. Member that it is exactly the other way about. It was not originally included in the priority list and now it is.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Post-war Scheme drawn up with the consent of the Central Government or without their consent ?

**Minister :** Without their consent.

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## NATIONALISATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

**\*728. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether any directive has been received from the Central Government with regard to the nationalisation of Motor Transport in this Province ;
- (b) what steps have been taken to give effect to it ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) No directive has been received from the Central Government with regard to the nationalisation of Motor Transport in this Province.
- (b) Independently of any such directions, we are examining schemes of nationalisation of Road Transport.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did the Government before nationalising the transport industry consider whether there were any other industries which could be nationalised ?

**Minister :** It is wrong to say that the road transport has been nationalised.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the Government prepared a programme for the nationalisation of the road transport ?

**Minister :** This scheme is being examined and all pros and cons will be considered before coming to any decision.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any committee been set up to examine the question of nationalisation of road transport ?

**Minister :** I have already answered this question and have nothing to add.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the business of road transport is in the hands of middle class people and its profits are shared by them and not by the big capitalists ?

**Minister :** Before coming to any final decision the Government will consider this question from all aspects.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Is it a fact that in anticipation of nationalization of road transport Government purchased some vehicles which are lying at Jullundur ?

**Minister :** This is not a fact.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government decided in principle on the nationalisation of industries ?

**Minister :** This is only a misgiving in the mind of the hon. Member.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What action does the Government propose to take on the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee on this subject ?

**Minister :** The report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has not been published yet.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can I dispel the doubts of the hon. Minister by saying that a number of plans for the nationalization of road transport have been sent to the Government ?



**Minister :** If any plans have been received they will be given full consideration before coming to a final decision.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Hon. Premier said in one of his speeches that 26 resolutions have been received by the Government. In view of that why does the hon. Minister not admit ?

**Minister :** If any resolutions have been received, they must have been received by the office of the hon. Premier. But nothing has come before the cabinet.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Premier has repeated a number of times that theirs is a joint responsibility. Does not the hon. Minister for Public Works share that joint responsibility in this case ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister's brain is full of mis-apprehensions ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. I may tell the hon. Member that supplementary questions should be couched in such words which are not offensive to the other side.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** When will the scheme be ready ?

**Minister :** It is under examination and I cannot say when it will be ready or if it will be ready at all.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** What are the considerations for the hon. Minister's fears that the scheme may not be ready at all ?

**Minister :** I cannot commit the Government one way or the other unless all the facts have been examined fully.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** What are the forces because of which the scheme may not be ready ?

**Minister :** There may be so many reasons. Influence of the hon. Members of the House, and force of public opinion may be two of the reasons and another reason can be the realization of the fact that the scheme will cause undue hardship to a particular section of the population.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** In view of the poor financial condition of the province, does not the Government think it necessary to nationalise the road transport ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a suggestion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government ever thought that the road transport should be nationalised ?

**Minister :** It is well known to everybody.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the difficulties that were seen in the way of nationalisation of road transport industry when the scheme was first considered by the Government ?

**Minister :** Give notice of a question and I will get you the information.

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**MOTOR VEHICLES LYING IN THE PREMISES OF  
JULLUNDUR SECRETARIAT**

**\*845. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Motor Vehicles lying at Jullundur in the premises of the Secretariat ;
- (b) the makes thereof ;
- (c) the scheme under which these were brought ;
- (d) by whose order these were bought ;
- (e) the reason why these were kept without any cover ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that most of the parts of these vehicles have become useless as a result of their being in the open exposed to rain and sun ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) 166.
- (b) Chevrolet, Ford and International.
- (c) As there was scarcity of vehicles in the Province, it was proposed to help the operators in getting the vehicles required by them. Hence the Govt. decided to buy the chassis in question. The scheme was included in the budget estimates for the year 1948-49 and funds were voted by the Assembly.
- (d) Government.

[Minister for Public Works].

(e) As the original intention was to dispose them of to the operators, there was no point in incurring heavy expenditure in providing suitable sheds. Since Government of India advised us not to dispose of the vehicles in that manner, it was then considered necessary to provide sheds of which arrangements are being made through Public Works Department.

(f) No.

**Shri Virendra :** What is the value of the vehicles that are lying at Jullundur ?

**Minister :** I require notice for giving this information.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that the vehicles that were received by the Government were of wrong size ?

**Minister :** Manufacturers do not make vehicles of wrong size.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that the vehicles that were received by the Government were of a size which it did not need ?

**Minister :** Government needed vehicles of different sizes and we got them.

**Minister :** Sir, is it parliamentary that the hon. Member should howl while putting his supplementary questions ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, is not the disorderly conduct of the hon. Minister responsible for that ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have several times reminded the hon. Members that in asking supplementary questions they should not use such words as are offensive to the other side.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether it is a fact or not that the price paid by the Government for these chassis is about a thousand rupees more than the market price ?

**Minister :** There is no truth in it.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** What is the wheel base of the lorries lying in Jullundur ?

**Minister :** The lorries are of different wheel bases. If the hon. Member wants this information he may give notice of a question.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Is it not a fact that the Home Secretary placed an order for these vehicles without consulting the Government ?

**Minister :** It is entirely an administrative arrangement as to who places an order; the hon. Member need not worry on this score.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has Government suffered any loss on account of these lorries ?

**Minister :** Government has suffered no loss in any way on account of these vehicles.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Since these lorries are lying at Jullundur for the last one year, why have not sheds been provided for these ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How many operators requested the Government to hand over these lorries to them on payment ?

**Minister :** A large number of applications were received but I cannot give the exact number.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister please tell us as to how many operators applied for these motor vehicles being sold to them ?

**Minister :** A fairly large number of applications were received. But for the supply of exact information, I require notice.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** From the reply it appears that Government purchased these vehicles at rates higher than the market. May I know whether with regard to the supply of vehicles, the Government invited any tenders or issued any notification so that one could compare the market as well as those prices which were paid by the Government ?

**Minister :** Well, Sir, tenders could not be invited from the paper merchants of Ludhiana or Rohtak. Orders were placed with those Firms which could supply maximum number of vehicles at minimum prices. Besides these purchases were not made direct but through the good offices of the Central Government.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know if any provision has been made either on the revenue or on the expenditure side in the budget for 1949-50 in respect of these chassis ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member can look up these figures in the Budget for himself.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I just explain ? The object of the question is that if the Government wanted these vehicles, it must have made a provision for this expenditure and if these vehicles were intended to be sold, it must have shown them on receipt side of the Budget. May I know what is the position ?

**Minister :** The decision of the Government in this regard will depend upon the report which the officer on special duty for nationalisation scheme will submit. If the Government decides in favour of nationalisation of transport, all these vehicles will be utilised. If it is decided otherwise, a few of them will be made use of in various departments, and the rest will be disposed of.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Then may I take it that so far Government has not taken any decision of any kind in this regard ?

**Minister :** The departments which require these vehicles, are being given. But for the rest we are waiting for the report.

**Shri Virendra :** May I know why, if the Government has not yet arrived at any decision with regard to the nationalisation of transport, these were vehicles purchased a year earlier ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In reply to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has been pleased to remark that the vehicles had to be kept without cover as sanction for their disposal was delayed by the Central Government. May I know how long did it take this Government to receive the necessary sanction ?

**Minister :** The question of obtaining sanction does not arise. The fact of the matter is that certain dealers in this line approached the Central Government that their business had suffered and the latter advised this Government of their own accord to defer the disposal of these vehicles. The hon. Member should know that they had been acquired by this Government with a view to helping the operators and not for any other purpose. (*Hear, hear*). If the Government decides to keep them permanently, then erection of sheds will be undertaken ; otherwise there is no use of wasting money over them.



**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Sir, on a point of order. I find that those hon. Members in whose names a particular question stands, do not get an opportunity for interpellations, while other members are permitted to ask supplementary questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is wrong. May I ask the hon. Member to withdraw this remark ? Besides, that is no point of order. I can use my discretion. Many members rise in their seats and I can ask any one of them to put a supplementary question.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I withdraw it, Sir. But what I want to convey is that another member should not be permitted to interpellate till the member interrogating has finished putting his supplementary questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the hon. Member to resume his seat ? I would advise him to read the rules in this connection. This question was put by Dr. Lehna Singh and I gave him every opportunity to put supplementary questions but he rose only once.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Minister has stated that Government did not incur any loss on account of these chassis, but the revised estimates for 1948-49 indicate a loss of several thousands of rupees on account of these vehicles. May I know whether the statement of the hon. Minister is correct or what appears in the revised estimates has been wrongly entered there ?

**Minister :** I think the hon. Member is wrong.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister please take the trouble of looking into the revised estimates for 1948-49, where a loss of Rs. 17 or 18 thousand has been shown on account of these chassis ?

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#### FILLING UP OF VACANCIES OF EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICERS

**\*837. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of vacancies of Excise and Taxation Officers created in this Province as a consequence of the Partition of the Punjab in August, 1947;
- (b) the manner in which such vacancies were filled up;

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa].

- (c) the names of the officers appointed against these vacancies;
- (d) whether the East Punjab Public Service Commission was consulted while filling up these vacancies; if so, the result thereof. ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) Two.
- (b) To give representation to the Harijans who had no representation in the Department, one vacancy was filled up by transfer of an official from one service to another. The other vacancy was filled up by direct recruitment.
- (c) (i) Shri Hari Kishan, Assistant, Civil Secretariat.  
(ii) Shri Krishan Lal Grover.
- (d) No public service commission was functioning in East Punjab at the time of the filling up of these vacancies and as such the question of their consultation did not arise. As soon as the Commission in East Punjab was set up the cases of both these officers were referred to the Commission and the matter is still under consideration.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** May I know whether any of these posts were advertised ?

**Minister :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell us, so far as vacancies of this nature are concerned, how many of them can be filled on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission and how many by direct nomination by the hon. Minister ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member would be well advised to consult the rules on the subject.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, my point is that so far as these particular posts are concerned, how many can an hon. Minister fill by direct nomination and how many on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission ?

**Minister :** Rules have been prescribed for these services and recruitment is made in strict accordance with them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the manner in which these vacancies are filled, through the Public Service Commission or by direct nomination ?

**Mr. Speaker :** No information that can be gathered from documents ordinarily accessible can be asked through supplementary questions. I have often found that hon. Members ask certain T. A. Rules to be quoted by the hon. Ministers, while the information can be got from the T. A. Rules which are published. Similarly the hon. Member has asked about the manner of filling the vacancies by the Public Service Commission. I think rules pertaining to this subject exist and they can be consulted. However, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to sub-rule 12 of Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure for their future guidance. The question 'shall not require information contained in documents ordinarily accessible to the public or in ordinary works of reference.'

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** While referring to part (b) of the question, may I know the procedure by which such vacancies are filled up by the hon. Minister himself and through the Public Service Commission?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question. Had the Public Service Commission been in existence at the time of the filling up of vacancies, reference to the Public Service Commission would certainly have been made.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If the Public Service Commission does not exist and direct nominations are made, then may I know whether they require to be referred again to the Public Service Commission, if it is set up later on?

**Minister :** Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any decision has been taken by the Commission on the matter that was referred to it?

**Minister :** The hon. Member does not appear to have heard the reply on this point. I will repeat for him. This matter is still under the consideration of the Commission.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE STAFF OF EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT.

**\*839. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the original allotment in the Budget for the year 1948-49 made under travelling allowance for the Head office of the Excise and Taxation Department;

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa].

- (b) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each member of the above office including the Commissioner during the period April 1948 to January 1949;
- (c) the number of officials who went on tour each time together with the purposes of their journeys and the number of days spent on each occasion;
- (d) whether similar journeys were also performed prior to the appointment of present Excise and Taxation Commissioner?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad .**

- (a) Rs. 6,800.
- (b) The total amount of Travelling Allowance drawn by the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, and his office staff amounts to Rs. 14921/11/-. Further details cannot be supplied.
- (c) All necessary care was exercised to take the minimum number of officials on tour. The journeys performed were in the interest of public service and the stay was restricted according to programme. It is regretted that further details cannot be supplied.
- (d) Yes.

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**REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE EXCISE  
AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT.**

**\*840. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the following posts was held by a Sikh between the period August 1947 to January 1949;
  - (i) Secretary to the Government dealing with Excise and Taxation;
  - (ii) Deputy Secretary, dealing with the Excise and Taxation;
  - (iii) Excise and Taxation Commissioner;
  - (iv) Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioners;
  - (v) Personal Assistant to the Excise and Taxation Commissioner;
  - (vi) Superintendent, Excise and Taxation Branch in the Administrative Department ;
  - (vii) Superintendent in the Excise and Taxation Commissioner's office;

- (viii) Stenographers attached to officers referred to in (i), (ii) and (iii) above;
- (ix) head clerks in the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner's Offices;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether the Government proposes to appoint a suitable number of members of Sikh community with a view to redressing their grievances?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House. I am sorry to adopt this attitude, but Government consider it necessary in the public interest to establish a convention in connection with such questions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If communal proportion is kept in services, what difficulty is experienced by the Government or what principle is violated in giving any information on the subject on the floor of this House?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the principle of communal proportion in services is followed by the Government?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If that principle is actually followed, why does the Government fight shy of replying to questions relating to communal representation on the floor of the House? Is the Government ashamed of its doings?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member is so keen about this matter, he can put unstarred questions.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** The Government does not reply to questions about representation in services. Is it because the rights of Harijans have been usurped?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### HOLDING OF TESTS FOR PROMOTION IN THE EXCISE AND TAXATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**\*841. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a competitive test has been held



(Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa)

recently for promotion to higher grades in the Excise and Taxation Commissioner's Office;

- (b) the object of holding such a test;
- (c) whether similar tests were ever held in the Department before;
- (d) whether this type of test is taken in any other Departments in this Province;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the fact that by the holding of these tests the claims of senior members of the staff are ignored and their juniors are promoted;
- (f) if the answer to parts (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative, the names of persons who were thus passed over;
- (g) the syllabus prescribed for the test referred to above ;
- (h) whether approval of Government for holding this test was obtained before hand ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) Several qualifying and *not* competitive tests have been held.
- (b) To select suitable persons for the posts of Assistants and Senior clerks.
- (c) The Office of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner was created only in 1946 and no such tests were held in this office in the United Punjab.
- (d) Similar tests have been held in the East Punjab Civil Secretariat.
- (e) The claims of senior members of the staff are *not* ignored if they are fit, although their juniors may do better in the tests. The senior members are ignored only if they do not come up to the minimum standard required.
- (f) One senior clerk was passed over for promotion to the post of Assistant, because he did not appear in the test.
- (g) **I For Assistants**
  - (i) Essay-writing 400 words.
  - (ii) Letter drafting.
  - (iii) Three questions to test general knowledge and intelligence.

## II For Senior Clerks

- (i) Dictation
  - (ii) Essay writing 200 words.
  - (iii) Three questions to test general knowledge and intelligence.
- (h) Service Rules for the establishment of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner's Office have not so far been finalized. For the present Excise and Taxation Commissioner makes appointments and promotions of his office staff and as such the question of Government approval did not arise.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Are such tests held in other offices as well ?

**Minister :** My reply is there.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has this practice of holding tests at the time of promotions been started by this Government or was such a practice already there ?

**Minister :** I have nothing to add to the reply that I have given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether the holding of the tests at the time of promotions is a legacy from the United Punjab or whether this Government started this innovation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether he started this practice so far as his own departments are concerned, or this practice was already there ?

**Minister :** Excise and Taxation Department came into existence in 1946 and this practice of holding tests at the time of promotions was started in 1947.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** This practice was not considered necessary before partition.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is the hon. Member's own opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What are the reasons for which this practice has been considered necessary by the hon. Minister ?

**Minister :** It is a good practice. There can be no two opinions about it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Whether it is good or bad, I want to know the reasons which led the hon. Minister to start this new practice which did not exist before ?

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HINDU AND SIKH OFFICERS HOLDING GAZETTED AND  
NON-GAZETTED POSTS IN THE LABOUR AND EXCISE  
DEPARTMENT.

**\*842. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Hindu and Sikh Officers holding gazetted and non-gazetted posts in the Labour and Excise Department who have been given adverse remarks and administered warnings since the partition and after the present Excise and Taxation Commissioner took over in February 1948,
- (b) the community to which the officers making such entries and giving warnings belonged? .

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House. I am sorry to adopt this attitude but Government consider it necessary in public interest to establish a convention in connection with such questions.

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DIFFICULTIES OF LABOURERS WORKING IN BHAKRA  
AND NANGAL PROJECTS.

**\*877. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of labourers working in connection with the Bhakra and the Nangal Projects,
- (b) the number of labourers who have been provided with housing accommodation by the Government so far,
- (c) the rate of wages paid to a labourer by the Government in the Bhakra and the Nangal Project area,
- (d) whether Government is aware of the fact that the labourers are experiencing great hardship in respect of supply of drinking water?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) About 25,000 to 26,000.
- (b) For Government labourers, Government has so far provided accomodation for 1000 men at Nangal and 400 men at Bhakra. Arrangements are being made for housing another two thousand men at Nangal and 400 men at Bhakra. The housing accommo-  
dation for the remaining labourers employed by contractors is provided by the contractors.
- (c) Rs. 2/- approximately per day for unskilled workmen.
- (d) A water supply scheme is functioning in Nangal Township area, and drinking water is supplied in taps suitably located in this area. Prior to this arrangement, drinking water was supplied by water tankers to the labourers at Nangal. Every care is taken to select labour camp sites near drinking water sources. No hardship to the labourers on this account has come to notice.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Did the hon. Minister ever take the trouble of going there and seeing the condition of those labourers ?

**Minister :** There is no question of trouble. I went there and saw their condition myself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the majority of the population there is that of refugees and their condition is naturally worse than that of ordinary labourers ?

**Minister :** It is not a fact.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Government decided to give preference to employ those persons as labourers who were in refugee camps. Have enough number of refugees come according to the expectation of the Government ?

**Minister :** Response from the refugees was poor.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Have any Labour Inspectors or Labour Officers been appointed to look after the interests of labourers ?

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** The matter is under consideration and will be given effect to from April.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Has no need been felt for looking after the welfare of labourers ?

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**Minister :** No separate Labour Officers were required as that duty is being done by the departmental officers.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Are the labourers required to do extra and private work of the officers ?

**Minister :** No.

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STARTING LARGE SCALE BANKING INSTITUTIONS ON  
CO-OPERATIVE LINES.

**\*739. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the Government contemplate starting large scale banking institutions on Co-operative lines which may hoard up the surplus produce of cultivators in order to dispose it of at favourable times and which in the meanwhile may advance money to cultivators so that the profits which accrue to middle men from such hoarding may go direct to the producers ;
- (b) Whether the Government consider the advisability in order to improve the economic conditions of labourers of awarding contracts to labourers themselves banded together in Co-operative Societies instead of to big capitalist individuals ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Government have postponed for the time being the setting up of such co-operative institutions where credit and marketing are to be inter-linked.
- (b) The organization of labour co-operatives is under the consideration of Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the reason for the postponement of such co-operative institutions ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The reason for postponing this scheme is lack of funds with the co-operative societies.

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## APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL BIO-CHEMIST

**\*850. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has appointed the Provincial Bio-Chemist, if so, what are his specific duties;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the United Punjab the work of Bio-Chemist was done by a part time officer;
- (c) in what respect the work has since increased ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) First part.....Yes.

Second part... (i) Educate cultivators in the art of preparation of compost from village waste material.

(ii) Induce Municipalities to convert their town refuse into valuable compost.

(iii) Assist the Municipalities in the transportation and disposal of compost material.

(iv) Supervise and guide the work of the staff employed on composting work.

- (b) Yes.

- (c) Before partition, the compost work was mainly done in the areas now constituting the West Punjab. In view of the acute shortage of food and the necessity of developing compost work in East Punjab, a whole-time Provincial Bio-Chemist has been appointed under a scheme jointly financed by the Government of India and East Punjab Government on 50 : 50 basis. He is, however, also attending to the duties of Agricultural Bacteriologist on a small scale pending the establishment of a proper Research Institute.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When did the appointment of the Bio-Chemist come into force?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Last year.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How much work in this direction has been done during the last year?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I gave a detailed reply three or four days back on this subject while answering one of the questions put by Chaudri Lahri Singh. I said that work in about 588 villages has been done in this direction.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has all this work been done after the appointment of this officer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This work as a matter of fact started after the appointment of this officer.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In the United Punjab this sort of work was being done by a part-time officer. Why is a whole time officer appointed in the East Punjab ? Has the work increased here ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In the undivided Punjab food problem was never serious but the food position of the East Punjab is not concealed from anybody. Compost work has increased and is increasing everyday. At present 46 Agricultural Assistants are working under him but the Bio-Chemist is feeling the necessity of more staff. He has asked for a Class II officer now.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the strength of the staff working under him now and how much more staff has he asked for ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** At present we have given him 46 Agricultural Assistants and 92 Mukadams. The Director of Agriculture told me that the Bio-Chemist has asked for a class II officer but I do not know about the other staff that he may have asked for.

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### CROPS DESTROYED BY WILD ANIMALS

**\*876. Pandit Mohan Lall Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that crops in the mountainous and sub-mountainous tracts of the Province are destroyed by monkeys, wild cows and pigs;
- (b) what steps the Government has taken or propose to take to save the crops from these animals ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Shooting down of wild animals is the only remedy for saving crops from their destruction. Unfortunately religious sentiments among the local inhabitants are very strongly against the killing of these animals ; especially monkeys and wild cows. A scheme is however under consideration for organizing shooting parties and awarding prizes to persons who destroyed these animals.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Has the Government obtained the views of experts on the question of saving the crops from these wild animals by some other means short of killing them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The only way to save the crops from these animals is to destroy them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the scheme as mentioned by the Parliamentary Secretary in his reply been started and has any expenditure been incurred on that account ? Or is the scheme still under consideration ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The scheme is still under consideration.

**Shri Virendra :** Has the Government considered any scheme to control the monkeys of Rohtak ? (*Laughter*)

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Is it in the knowledge of the Government that by catching and exporting these animals Government can benefit and at the same time it would not be injuring the sentiments of a large number of population ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We will consider the suggestion and if the hon. Member is prepared to make arrangements to catch these wild animals Government will give him all the help that he may require.

**Mr. Speaker :** I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members to a Rule regarding asking of questions. It covers the supplementary questions also. The Rule says :

"It must not amount in substance to a suggestion for a particular action but it may ask for a statement of the intention of Government in respect of a matter on which a question may be asked."

I want strictly to enforce the rules and, therefore, have drawn the attention of the House to it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Before embarking on the killing of these animals has the Government correctly gauged the public sentiment on this subject ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This sentiment is standing in our way; otherwise we would have long ago put this scheme in operation.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** There is public feeling against the killing of cows and monkeys but there is no feeling about the pigs ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not mentioned pigs at all.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** The Government might take very long in deciding on the policy of shooting down these wild animals. Is the Government prepared to freely give shooting licences to the zamindars to kill these animals ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Licences are already there, but licencees do not kill the animals because of the sentiments.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** The Government should give more licences to the zamindars of Kangra and Hoshiarpur to kill the wild animals.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a suggestion for a particular action.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government has decided so far that instead of killing these wild monkeys and cows, they should be caught and removed to some other place ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is again a suggestion.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** It has been stated that sentiments of people in this regard have been a major obstacle in overcoming this evil. May I know whether any steps have been taken by the Government through the Publicity Department or otherwise to counteract them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The scheme concerning this matter is still under consideration. When it is ready, necessary publicity will be made.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** May I know whether Government has considered the desirability of appointing a special officer to prepare a report about those ilaqas where wild animals damage the crops ?

## DISPLACED EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL BODIES.

**\*806. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) if the Government has published a list containing the names of displaced employees of Local Bodies from the West Punjab ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this list contains names of persons who never worked in any of the local bodies in the West Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government maintains any register containing the names of all the employees of the Local Bodies;
- (d) whether the list of displaced employees of Local Bodies prepared by the Government is in conformity with the register?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. One or two such instances have come to notice. The list is now being very carefully revised.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether the list that has been prepared contains names of persons who never worked in any of the local bodies in the West Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied that one or two instances came to our notice.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What action has been taken against them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The list is being revised carefully.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** I want to know whether after the revision of the list, if it is found that certain names had been wrongly included in it, they will be removed and in their stead displaced employees from the West Punjab will be given employment.

**Minister for Finance :** I have already replied that the list is under examination. I am not aware of any appointment having been made as a result of bogus entries. However, I would require notice if the hon. Member wants detailed information on the point.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether the Executive Officer, Ludhiana, is a displaced employee or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed, as I think this question was replied sometime ago on the floor of the House.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how long it will take to complete the revision of the list and make it up to date ?

**Minister for Finance :** I have already stated that it is under examination, as my attention was drawn to the fact that names of certain persons who were officiating as Executive Officers, have been included in the list. It will be revised as soon as possible.

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**PERMITS FOR IRON SHEETS FOR SECRETARY  
GANDHI SEWA ASHRAM DAL**

**\*835 Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that permit for several tons of iron sheets was recently issued to Secretary, Gandhi Sewa Ashram Dal (District Hoshiarpur) by the Licensing Officer, Steel and Iron or by the Industries Department;
- (b) whether the purposes for which such a permit for such a large quantity of iron sheets was issued was ascertained before issuing the permit;
- (c) whether it has since been represented to the Government that the iron sheets were not used for the purpose for which they were supplied on permit and that the iron sheets have been sold at a black market price;
- (d) whether Government has instituted any enquiry into this matter and if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi):**

- (a) Yes. A permit for 27 tons of corrugated iron sheets for building purposes was issued in favour of the Secretary, Shri Gandhi Sewa Ashram, Oel, District Hoshiarpur.
- (b) It was stated in the application of the Secretary that these sheets were required for roofing the burnt houses of the inhabitants of the village.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes. The enquiry has not yet been completed.



**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether before issuing permits for steel and iron, any investigation is conducted to ascertain the purpose for which steel is required ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The report received from the Secretary, Gandhi Sewa Ashram, was duly examined. Since he was considered to be a responsible man, the permit was issued to him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this permit for steel was issued to the Secretary of the Gandhi Ashram for strict use in that institution, or for purposes of allowing him to do business in steel and iron ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The permit was not issued to the Secretary for business purposes. Since it was considered that he was in a better position to give a correct estimate of the requirements of the Ashram, a permit to that effect was issued.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government was satisfied that permit was not being issued to the Secretary of that Ashram for private gains but for public purposes ?

**Minister for Finance :** Government had no information that it was being taken for private profit. If it is found to have been utilised for private gains, enquiries will be made.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know whether it is a fact that the District Congress Committee had represented that the steel for which a permit was issued to the Secretary of that Ashram, had found its way in the black market ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The matter is under enquiry.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** What is the result or stage of that enquiry ?

**Minister :** We cannot say anything at this moment.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the number as well as the basis on which permits for steel are issued ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a question of policy and cannot be dealt with under supplementary questions. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to sub rule (13) of Rule 20 of Rules of Procedure.

“It shall not raise questions of policy too large to be dealt with in the limits of an answer and matters for dealing with which the rules provide more convenient method.”

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know whether it is the same Gandhi Ashram, the foundation stone of which was laid by the hon. Premier ?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know whether, if a public worker tells the Government that a certain house has been burnt and iron sheets are required for its renovation, Government will issue a permit without ascertaining the fact ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know if this application was put up to the Licensing Authority in due course or was presented to the Minister direct and orders passed ?

**Minister :** In due course. I have no knowledge of it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether permits are issued by the Licensing Officer only or the hon. Minister passes orders for their issue ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact that a certain proportion of quota of steel is reserved for the hon. Minister out of which he can issue permits ?

**Minister :** I am not prepared to answer this question.

**Mr. Speaker :** No reflection please.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** May I know whether any person can secure a permit for any other license holder ?

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that the iron sheets for which permit was sought in the name of the Ashram, were required not for use of the Ashram but for those houses which were burnt during the disturbances ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The hon. Member knows better.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether it has been represented to Government that at the time of issue of permits recommendations of the district authorities only are considered while those of the Congress Committees are ignored ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is not a fact. Due consideration is given to the recommendations of both the district authorities and the Congress Committees.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know, Sir, if this allotment was made out of the quota placed at the discretion and disposal of the hon. Minister himself ?

**Minister For Finance :** No Sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please state the percentage of quota of steel reserved for the hon. Minister for direct issue of permits and that for the Licensing Officer ?

**Minister :** I have already replied that I am not prepared to be drawn into this question.

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### ADJOURNMENT MOTION

#### BEATING OF CHAUDHRI DEVI LAL

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unlawful beating of Chaudhri Devi Lal, Leader of the Congress Party, District Board, Hissar and President of the Congress Kisan Panchayat, in the judicial lock-up in Sirsa, district Hissar.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would like to know by whom Chaudhri Devi Lal was beaten.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** He was beaten by the subordinate officials of the judicial lock-up. It is only the officials who can go inside the lock-up and it is their misdeed. I wish to impress upon the House that this offence has been committed not against an ordinary individual but against a person who is a prominent Congressman of his district and a wellknown leader of the tenants and kisan movement. I do not propose to say anything about his arrest which is also said to be the result of some conspiracy on the part of Government officers and therefore questionable. I wish to invite the attention of the House to beating only.

**Minister for Home and Revenue (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) :** So far as the allegations contained in the adjournment motion are concerned, Government has not got any information. Let alone the beating, Government has no information even about the arrest. You will agree with me, Sir, that the matter is neither urgent nor definite nor is it of public importance. I have just received a letter from my hon. Friend,

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

Chaudhri Sahib Ram, in which he says that Chaudhri Devi Lal was arrested under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code. Besides this information that I have got from Chaudhri Sahib Ram, I have no other information. If this information is correct that Chaudhri Devi Lal has been arrested under Section 307, it is a substantial offence and as such it must be *sub judice*. As the case is bound to go to a court of law, if there has been any beating as has been alleged, suitable legal action is open to the party concerned. In my opinion, Sir, the adjournment motion should not be allowed to be moved in the form in which it has been moved.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am of the opinion that it is a definite matter of public importance. (*Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Hear, hear*). But if Chaudhri Devi Lal is being prosecuted, the matter is *sub judice*. Moreover the Government has not got any information on the subject. The party concerned has got a legal remedy because he can bring the allegation of beating to the notice of the trying magistrate. In these circumstances, I rule the motion out of order.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Although a ruling has been given, I would request you to allow me to make a submission. The person is in the custody of the Government and a very serious allegation has been made which, if correct, is most condemnable. The Government should in its own interest provide an opportunity to clear its position. It can, at any rate, make a statement that the matter will be enquired into and suitable action will be taken.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I can assure my hon. Friend that if any beating has taken place and any public servant is found to be guilty of it, Government will not overlook the offence. As I have already stated, Government has no information about this matter and in the absence of any information, it is very difficult to say anything one way or the other.

**Mr. Speaker :** I hope the Government will go into the matter.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Certainly.

## PUBLIC SAFETY BILL

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) :

I move—

That the East Punjab Public Safety Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, in commending this motion I do not propose to make any lengthy speech. I would only recapitulate the fact that this Bill was introduced when this House met in October last and was referred to a select committee. The select committee has made a unanimous report making certain alterations. The report has been before this honourable House and the hon Members have, I am sure, acquainted themselves with the various provisions of the Bill. The justification for a measure of this nature which is a departure from the normal penal laws is the existence of certain circumstances for which it is necessary that Government should be armed with powers as enumerated in the provisions of the Bill. I do not think there will be any hesitation in accepting this motion that the Bill be taken into consideration because the hon. Members of the House have had ample opportunity to study the provisions of the Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Safety Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (Hindustani):  
Sir, the fight for Indian independence began with the passage of the Rowlatt Act.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not discuss the principle of the Bill as the House accepted it while it referred the Bill to the select committee and stood committed to it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, how can the House commit itself to any decision before the Members have been allowed to express their opinion ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The hon. Member can oppose it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Sir, I was submitting that the Rowlatt Act was dubbed the blackest of Acts by our country-men. It was said that it was a measure which permitted no appeal, argument or lawyer. The fighters of the battle of freedom hated it from the core of their heart as it constituted a shameful outrage on the civil liberties of the people.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Our country today is free and we have a Congress Government here. The congress party which is now in power, in its manifesto, promised to the people during its struggle for independence, that in free India every citizen would have full civil liberty. But I am sorry to say that the Bill which has been brought before the House today, is, in many respects, worse than the Rowlatt Act. You will see, Sir, that everything with the exception of air that we breathe is sought to be controlled by the Government under this Bill. Water, food, cloth, electricity and everything else will come under the control of the Government. We swallowed a bitter pill when we allowed this Bill to be introduced during the last session of the Assembly. I think no person should be detained without being given an opportunity to prove himself innocent before a court of law.

I have just now received Sir, a party whip to the effect that I am not permitted to speak on this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not concerned with the whip. That is an internal affair of the party.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** So far as the shouting of 'ayes' for the passage of such Bills is concerned, willy-nilly we have to do so. But if our Leader wants us to follow him even to our ruin, that cannot be tolerated for long. The Government should not therefore bring in such repressive measures. For how long shall we remain tied to these whips even in the free atmosphere of the present times. If our Government is really democratic it should not bring forward such repressive legislative measures in future. We have to yield to these whips today on account of our weakness but they cannot be put up with for long.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have also received a whip; but there is no signature of anybody appended to it. There is therefore no reason for me to obey it, and I will therefore have my say.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already ruled that I am not concerned with the whip and the hon. Member need not refer to that.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** It appears that our Government wants to become a Fascist Government by passing this Public Safety Bill. It wants to have everything under its own control and thus to curb the civil liberties of the people.



**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** On a point of order, Sir. Can the chief whip pull the hon. Member from behind when he is on his legs ?

**Mr. Speaker :** He has no right to do that.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** This Bill, Sir, is another instance of the fascist methods that are being adopted by the Congress party. If this Bill is passed, I think the conditions in the Province will all the more deteriorate.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** May I remind the hon. Member that he was a member of the Select Committee and he has appended his signature to the report ?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I was a member of the Select Committee and I opposed the Bill there.

**Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Is it admissible to a Member to oppose the Bill when he has already appended his signature to its report ?

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I may explain my position. I was no doubt a member of the Select Committee and I opposed the Bill there also. I wanted to send a note of dissent, but as there was no time, I could not do so and I did not want the matter to be delayed. Moreover there are no such rules that a member if he happens to be a member of the Select Committee cannot oppose the Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** A member of the Select Committee of a Bill can even move an amendment to the Bill.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I simply wanted to remind him of his moral responsibility.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** My hon. Friend, being new to the legislature, does not know the rules of procedure. I can oppose the Bill as a whole as well as certain specific provisions. I was saying, Sir, that at the time of the introduction of this Bill we were under the impression that the Congress Government could not bring forward any repressive measure. We used to hear that the Congress party when it came into power would bring forward legislative measures for the good of the people and not for repressing them.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member criticizes the principle of the Bill at this stage, it is not permissible, because the House already stands committed to it. There is a rule also in another Indian Legislature to the

[Mr. Speaker]

effect that, when a motion that a Bill as reported on by the Select Committee be taken into consideration is made, the debate on the principle of the Bill, if it is intended to oppose the motion, is not in order, because the House stands committed to the principle by having committed the Bill to a Select Committee.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** There was a clause in the original Bill, according to which no person could be detained in custody for a period exceeding one year, but according to the Bill as reported by the Select Committee, this time-limit has been removed altogether. As such the persons detained under this Bill can be detained in custody for an indefinite period, say for five or even ten years.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I want to clear one misunderstanding. There is time for the life of the Bill and nobody can be detained beyond the life of the Bill.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I know there is time-limit for the Bill. But even then, the time-limit of detention which was only one year in the original Bill, has been enhanced to two or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years according to the Bill as reported by the Select Committee.

Sir, I wish to submit that there is so much repression that not one or two but thousands of persons are put in jail. Those very people who promised civil liberties in the new state of their dreams have now gone back upon their words after the achievement of independence. I have their speeches with me. They used to say that nobody should be kept behind the bars without trial. But now they themselves do what they condemned earlier. They are in power and they have put thousands of men in jail without any trial whatsoever. The conditions in jails are very bad. I had a chance to visit Hissar jail and saw the conditions there with my own eyes. There I met Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, an ex-Member of this House. He told me that he did not know when he was going to be released. His family was not properly looked after. Those very people who fought for independence and who were against detentions without trial when their own persons were concerned, are now themselves responsible for the ill-treatment being meted out to the prisoners. The justification they put forward in support of their action is that they do so for the good of India and the security of the Province. But such repressive measures do no good to the country or the Province. They are designed merely to keep a party in power by fair or unfair means. But as a matter of fact my

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

honourable Friends should know that no party can remain in saddle by such unfair means. The life of this repressive measure is now sought to be extended from one to two and a half years. Civil liberties of the people are given a crushing blow. Sir, I wish to submit that the measure should be redrafted so as to be in tune with the principles of justice and liberty.

There are one or two things more which I wish to bring to the notice of this House. Under this Act nobody will be allowed to do any work without the permission of the Government. Such wide powers will be taken over that even the property of the farmers can be taken possession of by the Government. This measure will be a shock to the farmers. They won't be able to export anything without the permission of the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is going wide of the mark. I will remind him to stick to the Bill.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I wish to submit, Sir, that in order to keep a fascist party in power civil liberties of the people are being crushed. Now I wish to tell something about the hon. Premier.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please don't refer to him.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** It is most important and therefore requires mentioning

**Mr. Speaker :** I don't think so. It may be important from your point of view. But I have to see whether it is relevant to the motion.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** I want to show what views the hon. Premier held before on the subject.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have asked the hon. Member to stick to the Bill. If he has to suggest any amendments on certain clauses he should make mention of them.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** But there is no time left for submitting amendments.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member is to put forward any amendments I am prepared to allow them even now.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, as a matter of fact they are hurrying through the Bill. There is no provision of any facilities to the political prisoners in this Bill. These prisoners should be accorded a better treatment. Conditions in jails are very bad. Fortunately or unfortunately, I was made a non-official visitor. I saw that sixteen or seventeen hundred prisoners were kept like a flock of sheep in a jail.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not under discussion.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** All facilities should be provided to the arrested persons. What I mean to say is that if no such facilities exist they should not be arrested at all. In the jails, at present, there is no room for prisoners. They live in open and the food given to them is worse than what the animals take. Even drinking water is not available in some cases.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to discuss the jail administration now.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** It is quite relevant.

**Mr. Speaker :** Since the hon. Member is an advocate he should know that here relevancy cannot be based on Evidence Act but on parliamentary procedure.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** People are greatly agitated over this Bill. They say that it is not based on justice and so there is a fear that violation of laws may take place and the situation may get out of control. Look at the conditions prevailing in other countries. They should be an eye-opener to us. The state of affairs in our country is bad and unless poverty and sufferings of the masses are removed it may grow worse. Such repressive Acts only aggravate the situation and do not ease it. The Act bestows wide powers open the Government to arrest all who hold different views. I wish that it should be reconsidered. This Bill is a disgrace to the Province. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the East Punjab Public Safety Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

**Clause 1.**

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 2

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 3.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural)  
(*Hindustani*) : I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (4) after the words “as soon as may be” add the following :  
“and ordinarily not more than two months after the date when he has been taken into custody.”

Sir, I have no mind to make a lengthy speech. I am fully aware of the conditions under which our Government has been forced by circumstance to perform this unpleasant duty of bringing in such a measure in this House. At the same time our Government which is a popular Government should keep this fact in view that it is its bounden duty to appreciate the feelings of the common man. It is therefore in the fitness of things that a common man should not be put to any hardship. At this stage I do not intend to enter into any details as to how Government was forced to bring in such a Bill in this House. That is a very long tale. I wish to submit that the wording of sub-clause 4 does not appear to be clear. The machinery set up by the Government for enforcing the provisions of the Bills passed into Law here in this House, does not realize the difficulties of the public. We have to over-haul this machinery to suit the needs of the present time. As a matter of fact it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to over-haul such a machinery with a view to saving themselves from earning a bad name. According to my amendment there is a clear direction for the officials not to take into custody any person for a period of more than two months. If my amendment is accepted, they cannot keep in custody any person for an unlimited period. The concerned officials will be required to refer the case of such persons to an Advisory Tribunal after a specified period. In the end I would request the hon. Minister to appreciate the popular feelings and accept my amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (4) after the words "as soon as may be" add the following :  
"and ordinarily not more than two months after the date when he has been taken into custody."

*The motion was carried.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move—

That in sub-clause (5), in lines 3 & 4 delete the words "on application of the persons affected by the order."

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 4.**

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move—

That in sub-clause (1), add new paragraph (d) and re-number existing paragraph (d) as (e).

"(d) shall notify his movements or report himself, or do both in such manner, at such times and to such authority or person as may be specified in the order."

*The motion was carried.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move—

That in clause 4 a new sub-clause (2) be added as follows and sub-clauses 2, 3, and 4 be re-numbered as 3, 4 and 5.

"(2) An order made under sub-clause (1) may require the person in respect of whom it is made to enter into a bond, with or without sureties, for the due observance of the restrictions or conditions specified in the order."

*The motion was carried.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move—

That after new sub-clause (5) the following new sub-clause (6) be added :

(6) "When an order has been made in respect of any person under any of the paragraphs under clause 4, sub-clause (1), or (2) the grounds of it may be communicated to him by the authority making the order and in any case, when the order is to be in force for more than three months he shall have a right of making a representation which shall be referred to the Advisory Tribunal, constituted under section 3, sub-section (4).

*The motion was carried.*



**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was barried.*

**Clauses 5 to 46.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 5 to 46 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Schedules first and Second.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the First and Second Schedules stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 1**

**Sub-clause (1)**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) :  
Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Public Safety Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Public Safety Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, with your permission I want to make a few passing observations on clause 33 of this Bill. I hope that the hon. Member who is sponsoring this Bill, would kindly give attention to what I am going to point out. I think, Sir, that the provision made in this clause runs counter to the basic principle of jurisprudence viz, a person is to be considered 'not guilty' until charge against him is proved. Thus according to the law of jurisprudence, the 'onus' lies on the prosecution or the Government and not the accused. The latter is not supposed to bear the 'onus' of proving himself not guilty. But this clause lays down that 'any secretary, director or other officer or person concerned thereof shall be punishable with the punishment provided for the offence, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or consent.'

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

The hon. Minister who is sponsoring this Bill is himself an able lawyer and so I can expect him to give due consideration to this legal point, so that no unnecessary hardship may be caused to any person under the provisions of this Bill, when it becomes law. I suggest, Sir, that it would be much better if the words 'if it is committed at his instance or within his knowledge' are substituted for "unless he proves.....etc." so that the 'onus' of proving the charge may be on the prosecution or the Government and the accused may be saved from unnecessary hardship. Sir, it is far from my intention to oppose this Bill. I have just given a suggestion, which is based on one of the fundamental laws of jurisprudence. I resume my seat with the hope that the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue will give it due consideration.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, in reply I have only one thing to say that the question of presumption in criminal jurisprudence is not new and it is not in the Punjab Public Safety Act that such presumption is being retained against certain people associated either with corporations, or companies or banks. The fundamental basis of a provision of this nature is based upon the ordinary concept of things because under certain circumstances such people who are associated in such capacities in all these bodies stand to gain by some undue advantages obtained by the company and therefore, they cannot have both ways. They cannot appropriate the advantages that might accrue and later on when they have to suffer for these advantages, they cannot take up that position that they had no knowledge of the offences committed by the corporations, companies and the banks. Therefore, Sir, when the thing is proved against the body, it is then that the presumption is made against the people who are intimately connected with that body. After all it is a presumption which can easily be repudiated. If a particular person is innocent he can show that he had nothing to do with that crime. I assure Mr. Mehta that there is nothing in this provision to be afraid of. With these words I move that the Bill be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the East Punjab Public Safety Bill, as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

**DISTURBED AREAS BILL**

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) :

I move—

That the East Punjab Disturbed Areas Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker** : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

**Clause 1.**

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clauses 2 to 9.**

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Schedule.**

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is—

That schedule be the schedule of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 1**

Sub-clause (1)

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Home Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) :

Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Disturbed Areas Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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(20) 44 EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [26th March, 1949]

### SPECIAL TRIBUNALS BILL

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Special Tribunals Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to discuss the Bill clause by Clause.—

#### Clause 1.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clauses 2 to 19.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 19 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 1

Sub-clause (1).

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Title.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Special Tribunals Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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### SOCIETIES REGISTRATION (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I introduce the Societies Registration (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

## SOCIETIES REGISTRATION (East Punjab Amendment) BILL (20) 45

**Minister for Finance :** I beg to move—

That the Societies Registration (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

### Clauses 2 to 5.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 1.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Title.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance :** I move—

That the Societies Registration (East Punjab) Amendment Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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## PUNJAB PURE FOOD (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
I introduce the Punjab Pure Food (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I beg to move—

That the Punjab Pure Food (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

### Clauses 2 to 11.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 1.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I move—

That the Punjab Pure Food (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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### DAMAGED AREAS BILL

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I introduce the East Punjab Damaged Areas Bill.

**Minister for Finance:** I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Damaged Areas Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### Clause 1.

Sub-Clauses (2) and (3).

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clauses 2 to 21.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 21 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 1

Sub-clause (1)

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause I stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*



**Title**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance:** I move—

That the East Punjab Damaged Areas Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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**PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL**

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I introduce the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Finance:** I beg to move—

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**Clause 1.****Sub-clause (2)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clauses 2 and 3.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 1.****Sub-clause (1).**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

(20) 48 EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [26th March, 1941]

**Minister for Finance :** I move —

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EAST PUNJAB SECOND  
AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister for Finance :** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :  
I introduce the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Finance :** I beg to move —

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill be taken  
into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill  
clause by clause.

**Clause 2.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is —

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Clause 1.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is —

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Title.**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is —

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance :** I move —

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (EAST PUNJAB  
AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):  
I introduce the Code of Criminal Procedure (East Punjab Amendment)  
Bill, 1949.

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday, 28th March 1949*

# EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3RD SESSION OF THE FIRST EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday, 28th March 1949.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### STEEL AND IRON QUOTA

**\*836. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1948, quota for a large quantity of steel and iron was allotted to some persons in Hoshiarpur District who have never been in the business of selling iron or manufacturing of iron goods ;
- (b) whether Chaudhri Hans Raj, Municipal Commissioner of Hoshiarpur city was also granted a permit for a large quantity of iron and steel at that time ;
- (c) whether he was in iron business before and whether he ever manufactured iron goods and whether he was a registered dealer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) A quota of 14 tons only was issued in favour of four refugee firms in Hoshiarpur District, who were not in the trade in United Punjab. This was done in accordance with the policy of Government to rehabilitate deserving refugees in this trade.
- (b) Messrs. Hans Raj & Co. of Hoshiarpur were granted 6 tons for the IV quarter in 1948 for industrial purposes and 8 tons for the I quarter in 1949 for the manufacture of agricultural implements at the instance of the Department of Agriculture.
- (c) Chaudhri Hans Raj was reported to be a working partner of a firm manufacturing iron and steel goods in the United Punjab.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta:** Is it a fact that Chaudhri Hans Raj, Municipal Commissioner is only a contractor and was never in iron and steel business ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He got the quota because he was recommended by the Steel Stock Holders' Association that he was in this trade.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Was he in any registered concern ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** His application was endorsed by the Stock Holders' Association and he was given the quota on that endorsement.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Did the Government ascertain that his statement was correct ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As he was recommended by a recognised Association, the recommendation was considered to be authoritative.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** While giving a quota of steel or iron, does the Government verify whether or not those persons were doing that business in the West Punjab or are doing it in the East Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Twenty five percent of the quota is given to the refugees to rehabilitate them irrespective of the fact that they were in that particular trade or not in Pakistan.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** My question is whether iron and steel quota is given only to those manufacturers who are already in this trade ? It does not refer to refugees or non-refugees.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Seventy-five per cent is reserved for those who are already in this trade and the rest 25% for refugees irrespective of the fact whether they were in that trade or not.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Chaudhri Hans Raj is neither a refugee, nor was he in this trade. How is it that quota has been given to him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have repeated it twice that he was recommended by the Stock Holders' Association and in that endorsement it was stated that he was doing that work in the United Punjab. Government had no reason to disbelieve that statement.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know if any declaration is taken from individuals or firms to the effect that they are already in that trade before any quota is given ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Is any quota left or has the whole of it been exhausted ? (*Laughter*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Is it a fact that the refugees who were quota holders in Pakistan got lesser quota of steel and iron than those refugees who were not quota holders in Pakistan.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is giving information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government issued any notification to know what firms were or are doing this work ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker :** This question relates to Chaudhri Hans Raj and the quota of iron and steel given in Hoshiarpur district but the hon. Member is going much beyond the scope of the question.

**Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the Government make enquiries to know whether those who get the quota utilise it for the purpose for which it is intended and not sell it in the black market ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY DISTRICT BOARD, ROHTAK

**\*855. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has appointed Shri Gian Chand Handa as Secretary of the District Board, Rohtak on the ground that the Board had failed to appoint a permanent Secretary in accordance with the conditions issued with East Punjab Government Notification No. 1235-B and C-47/408 dated the 6th January, 1948.
- (b) whether it is a fact that Shri Harshive Rai temporary Secretary held the post by promotion and was unanimously recommended by the Board for the permanent post ;
- (c) whether the District Board has acted according to Government notification and instructions, if not, why ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

- (b) The temporary promotion of Shri Harshive Rai was approved as a stop-gap arrangement only till the appointment of a permanent Secretary. The Board later on did recommend him unanimously for permanent appointment.
- (c) The Board did not appoint a displaced local body employee from West Punjab as its Secretary as directed by Government, presumably because it wanted to give this post to a local person.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In their notification No. 1235-B and C-47/408, the Government have laid down that "No vacancy shall be filled by promotion without the previous approval of the Provincial Government." Is it a fact that the District Board sought for the previous approval of the Government and unanimously passed a resolution recommending the appointment of the officiating Secretary as a permanent Secretary?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If a decision was unanimously taken by the Board that appointment should be made by promotion, why did Government not approve the appointment?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not got the details with me. If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall enquire.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether that notification was further clarified by Memo No. 6337 B and C-48/2845, dated 25th May, 1948 and in that memo it was made clear that if any senior and suitable candidate even if he was a non-refugee was forthcoming, Government's sanction should be obtained?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It may be so.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why then did the Government not approve of the recommendation of the District Board in spite of that clarification?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There can be special circumstances.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were those special circumstances? Can the Parliamentary Secretary throw some light on them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is up to the Government to approve of a particular appointment. It is not obligatory on them to do so.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the specific reasons which



led the Government to disregard the unanimous recommendation of the Board ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is repetition. The Parliamentary Secretary has replied to that. The hon. Member cannot exact any information from the Government. If the Government do not want to reply, the hon. Member should not repeat his question over and over again.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Secretary can keep silent.

#### RECRUITMENT OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

**\*856. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 35 Extra Assistant Commissioners to be recruited this year 10 are to be taken by nominations and 5 from retired officers ;
- (b) the causes for all the Extra Assistant Commissioners being not taken on the basis of competition ;
- (c) the basis on which the nominations will be made and the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):**

- (a) No.
- (b) The existing Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch) Rules, 1930, provide that 25 per cent vacancies should be filled up by competition, 25 per cent by nomination, 37½ per cent by promotion from among Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars and 12½ per cent by promotion from among ministerial Government servants. Government propose to relax these rules and fill up at least 40 per cent vacancies by competition this year.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why does the Government want to keep the principle of nominations in services ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The principle of nominations is necessary in the case of vacancies to be filled by promotions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It may be necessary in the case of promotions but why do you want to maintain it in the case of direct nominations ?

**Minister :** Whether any posts are to be filled by direct nominations will be decided after the result of the competition is known.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It is stated in the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary that certain vacancies are to be filled by nominations.

**Minister :** Ultimate decision will be taken after the result of the competition is known.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it essential that some of the posts may be filled by nominations ?

**Minister :** No, it is not essential. It may be that no post is filled by nominations.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Has the Government any intention to nominate some Harijan candidates as E. A. Cs. ?

**Minister :** Some of them may be able to find their way through competition.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why does the Government want to adhere to the principle of nominations ?

**Minister :** This question does not arise at this stage. It may be that nomination may not be resorted to at all.

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#### EXEMPTION OF DURREE MANUFACTURING FROM THE PROVISIONS OF CLOTH ORDERS

**\*860. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether he received a printed representation from Durree Merchants Association, Ambala City to the effect that the Durree Manufacturing Industry be exempted from the provisions of Licensing Cloth Order and Movement Control Order. If so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

Yes, Durrees have been exempted from the East Punjab Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Regulation of Movement) Order, 1948 but not from the East Punjab Cotton Cloth Dealers Licencing Order, 1948.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any representation been received from the Durree Merchants Association, Ambala City in this connection ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. A representation was received.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Government know that about three thousand refugees are employed in this industry ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, quite a large number of refugees are employed in this trade and they are all satisfied as a result of the Government's action in this behalf.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if restrictions on the export of durries have been removed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. Restrictions on export have been removed and the workers are satisfied.

— — — — —

**DELAY IN PAYMENT OF PENSION TO PROFESSOR SITA RAM  
OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LUDHIANA.**

**\*861. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the reasons for the delay in giving pension to Professor Sita Ram of the Government College, Ludhiana who retired on 30th June, 1948 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he has not been given his provident fund ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Pension cases have to undergo certain necessary formalities. The sanction of pension to Shri Sita Ram is under issue.
- (b) The payment of General Provident Fund standing to the credit of Shri Sita Ram is also under issue.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** For how long has this case been under consideration and when did Professor Sita Ram retire ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** He retired in June, 1948. The Principal of the college took three months to send his pension papers and after that his papers have been in other departments of the Government for the payment of his pension.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** You yourself have given the date of his retirement in your question, what is the idea of asking this question ?

**Mr. Speaker :** He wanted to be certain whether it was right or not. (*Laughter*).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How long would the papers take in the Government offices ? May I know the stage at which they are ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As I have told you the Principal of the college took three months to forward these papers. After that the papers had to go to the Accountant General etc., and all these stages take some time.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the papers are at the last stage awaiting the signatures of the last officer ?

**Minister :** The Parliamentary Secretary has already said in the reply to the original question that the orders are under issue.

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#### GIRLS EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*878. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Girls Middle Schools opened in the province in the year 1948-49 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that an application to start a girls middle school in village Khad, Tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur was made to the Government ;
- (c) what action has been or is proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :—**

- (a) One.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

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#### SANITARY FACILITIES FOR THE UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS.

**\*631. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the old practice of answering the call of nature in the earthen pot by the under-trial prisoners in the Police lock-ups is still being continued ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether the Government proposes to change this practice ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :—**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The matter is receiving consideration.

**DAILY DIET ALLOWANCE FOR UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS.]**

**\*632. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the scale of daily diet allowance sanctioned for the under-trial prisoners in the police lock-ups since the 1st January, 1929 ;
- (b) whether he received letter No. 64 dated 6-11-1948 in which I proposed that the daily diet allowance of the prisoners confined in police lock-ups be increased ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in this behalf ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :—**

- (a) A statement is given below :—

The Scale of diet allowance sanctioned for undertrial prisoners per head per diem in the police lock-ups since 1st January, 1929, is as under :—

YEAR	HILLY TRACTS	PLAINS
1929	0-6-0	0-4-0
1930	0-6-0	0-4-0
1931	0-5-0	0-3-0
1932	0-4-0	0-3-0
1933	0-4-0	0-3-0
1934	0-4-0	0-3-0
1935	0-4-0	0-3-0
1936	0-4-0	0-3-0
1937	0-4-0	0-3-0
1938	0-4-0	0-3-0
1939	0-4-0	0-3-0
1940	0-4-0	0-3-0
1941	0-4-0	0-3-0
1942	0-4-0	0-4-0
1943	0-6-0	0-4-0
1944	0-14-0	0-6-0
1945	0-14-0	0-6-0
1946	0-14-0	0-6-0
1947	0-14-0	0-6-0
1948	0-14-0	0-6-0
1949	0-14-0	0-10-0

(b) Yes, No. 62 and not 64.

(c) No action is necessary.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** From what date has this diet allowance been raised from 6 to 10 annas ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It has not been raised to 10 annas.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Sir, this information is given in the statement which has been supplied to me.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The information given in the statement is according to years. If the hon. Member wants the date, he will have to give notice of a question again.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Do the Detenus in the lock-up get the diet of an ordinary prisoner or some better diet is given to them ?

**Minister :** This scale is for the under-trials. Detenus form a separate category.

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CRIMINAL CASES REGISTERED IN EACH DISTRICT OF THE  
PROVINCE.

**\*633. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the No. of criminal cases registered at the Police Stations of each of the districts in the province from (i) 1-1-45 to 31-12-45 (ii) 1-1-46 to 31-12-46 (iii) 1-1-47 to 31-12-47 and (iv) 1-1-48 to 31-12-48 ;
- (b) total number of the persons taken into custody in connection with the cases referred to above ;
- (c) the number of the murder and decoity and rape cases registered during the aforesaid period in each district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :—**

(a), (b) and (c) Statement is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>.

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SHORTAGE OF PRINTED FORMS IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*634. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is an acute shortage of the printed forms and police zimni in each of the districts of this province.

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the library.



- (b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by the Government to meet this shortage ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :—**

- (a) Yes, Government is aware of the fact that there is shortage of printed forms in the various Departments.

The reasons are :—

- (1) no stocks of printed forms were brought from Lahore;
- (2) there was no Government Press in East Punjab, and the two small presses which were requisitioned cannot turn out even a fraction of the work ;
- (3) the work entrusted to private presses was delayed, either due to lack of paper or transport difficulties, and
- (4) extraordinary demand for printing work by various departments, such as Rehabilitation and Civil Supplies.

- (b) Government is taking steps to remove all the difficulties mentioned above as under :—

- (1) A scheme for setting up a new Government Printing Press at Ambala has been approved and every effort is being made to get the machinery required as early as possible.
- (2) The Railway authorities have been asked to provide facilities for transport of paper and printed material.
- (3) Government of India have been approached to undertake a portion of our printing work in the Government of India Press at Simla.
- (4) All arrears of printing work have been entrusted to private presses.
- (5) Government of India have now allotted a larger quota of paper.

It is expected that very soon the shortage of printed forms will be removed.

#### STATIONERY ALLOWANCE TO MUHARRARS OF POLICE STATIONS.

**\*635. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the rate of the stationery allowance which was being given in each of the police stations of Taran Taran from 1-4-48 to 31-5-48 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (b) whether on account of the acute shortage of the printed zimni forms the police officers and the muharrars of these police stations had to purchase white paper from the bazar out of their own pockets in order to send the Zimnis and other reports in time during these months ;
- (c) the number of cases registered and investigated in Patti Police Station, District Amritsar during the month of August 1948 and how many sheets of the paper were used by the police officers for preparing Zimnis and other reports during this month together with the price of the paper used ;
- (d) whether the Government propose to revise the present rates of stationery allowances given to each of the muharrars in the police stations ; if so, the details of revised rates ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :—**

- (a) Rs 4/- per mensem.
- (b) Yes. The bills regarding expenditure incurred out of pocket are entertained at headquarters for payment, whenever submitted.
- (c) 56 cases were registered and investigated in Patti Police Station during August, 1948, 1430 sheets of paper were purchased at a cost of Rs 18/-.
- (d) The question of revision of rates is under consideration.

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#### CRIMINAL CASES REGISTERED IN POLICE STATIONS.

**\*656. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the latest figures of population of the areas covered by each of the Police Stations of Amritsar district;
- (b) the number of cases registered at each of the police stations from 1-1-45 to 30-6-45, from 1-1-46 to 30-6-46, from 1-1-47 to 1-6-47 and from 1-1-48 to 30-6-48;
- (c) the number of villages under the jurisdiction of each police station;
- (d) the number of murder, rape and dacoity cases registered in each of the police stations during the period referred to in part (b) above;
- (e) the number of persons against whom cases were regis-

tered; and the number of the accused arrested; the number of the accused sent up for trial and the number of the accused convicted each year during the period mentioned above?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :-**

(a) to (e) statements are laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

REALISATION OF PUNITIVE TAX FROM VILLAGE JATANLA  
TEHSIL SONEPAT.

**\*857. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that punitive tax of Rs. 4,300/- has been imposed on village Jatanla, Tehsil Sonapat ;
- (b) whether imposition of this tax was in connection with the 1942 movement of "quit India" ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to waive the realisation of this tax, if not the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :—**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No, because of crime situation in the ilaqa in 1944.
- (c) First Part-No.

Second Part—Additional police has been there and expenditure was incurred on it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this punitive tax was imposed on the people in connection with the 1942 movement ?

**Minister :** I have already stated that additional police post was stationed in that village in view of the criminal situation prevailing in 1944.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know where and why was this additional police post located ?

**Minister :** It was imposed on the village Jatanla.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But for what offence ?

**Minister :** On account of increasing number of criminal offences committed by the residents of that village.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What was the nature of these crimes ? Were they connected with any political movement ?

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<sup>1</sup> kept in the library

**Minister :** No. They were not connected with any political movement.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this additional police post was stationed on account of the sabotaging activities of the residents in that year and whether this punitive tax was being realised from them on this score ?

**Minister :** I have already given information on this point.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether imposition of the punitive tax was in connection with some political movement in 1942 ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member is repeating his question. I have already given a reply.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that Government had made an announcement that general amnesity will be granted to all those who participated in one or the other political movements ? May I know whether in view of this Government would consider the waiving of that tax ?

**Mr. Speaker :** But this tax was not imposed for political reasons.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please state clearly that imposition of this punitive tax had no connection with the taking part by the residents in any political movement ?

**Minister :** I cannot be more clear than I have been before. I think I have made myself very clear on the point.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If this is proved that the imposition of the said tax was in connection with some political movement will the hon. Minister please take necessary action in the matter ?

**Minister :** Most gladly.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a suggestion for action.

#### IRRIGATION THROUGH BHAKRA DAM.

**\*858. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a map showing all the areas that are to be irrigated in the East Punjab by the proposed Bhakra Dam Scheme, if so, will he lay a copy thereof on the table of House;

- (b) whether it is a fact that Rohtak district is dependent for getting canal water on the further raising of the Bhakra Dam;
- (c) whether the raising of the Dam will affect the districts of the Haryana Prant, i.e. Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) First part—Not yet.  
Second part—Does not arise.
- (b) No.
- (c) Favourably.

**MUSLIM RESIDENTS OF TEHSIL JAGADHRI, DISTRICT AMBALA.**

**\*859. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that some Muslims are still residing in Jagadhri Tehsil of District Ambala and they are not desirous of going to Pakistan ;
- (b) whether the Police has made any adverse reports against these Muslims and also against some Congress workers who are looking after the welfare of these Muslims ; if so, with what object ;
- (c) whether any good will mission of social workers from Delhi came to see these Muslims and whether the Police made any reports against these social workers also ; if so, what were these reports ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) First part —No.  
Second part —Does not arise.
- (c) First part —Yes.  
Second part —No.  
Third part —Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether or not it is a fact that the C.I.D. made an adverse report against the Goodwill mission of social workers, which came from Delhi to see the Muslims still living in Jagadhri ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is covered by the reply given to the second part of part (c) of the main question.

(22) 16 EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [28th March 1951]

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Ambala, sent a confidential report about this matter on the 28th August, 1948, to the effect that—

‘A number of converted Muslims are still residing in the Jagadhari Tehsil who are desirous of going to Pakistan. A Goodwill Mission of some disreputable bad hats was sent from Delhi to look after their welfare. This body has been sent as some mischievous persons had represented at Delhi that the district authorities were anti-Muslim in their outlook. The Mission has been loudly acclaiming its authority in Jagadhari Tehsil and has done a lot to bring into contempt the District Administration.’

May I know whether this confidential report was received by the Government ?

**Minister :** It must be a concocted paper. I refuse to believe that Pandit ji could have access to the confidential report passed on by the Superintendent of Police.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Since the administration is so loose, as is evident from the leakage of the Budget, it is possible to secure this confidential report.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does he deny the receipt of that confidential report ?

**Mr. Speaker :** He does.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** No, Sir, he says that it must be a concocted paper as no body could have access to a confidential file. Government should know that what they consider to be confidential, comes to the knowledge of the people no sooner it is written in that confidential file. (*Laughter*)

**Minister :** The insinuation is incorrect because the confidential report passed on by the Superintendent of Police could not leak out.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If the correctness of this report is proved, then will the hon. Minister suggest any penalty for himself ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

ARREST OF CHAUDHRI SOHAN LAL, COMPULSORY EDUCATION  
OFFICER, DISTRICT BOARD, ROHTAK.

\*862. **Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Sohan Lal, Compulsory



Education Officer, District Board, Rohtak was arrested at Ambala on 22-6-48 by one Punnu Ram, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, if so, the reasons thereof;

- (b) whether Chaudhri Sohan Lal disclosed his identity and made reference to many respectable Government servants who were known to him.
- (c) the grounds for the arrest;
- (d) the name of the Officer at whose instance Chaudhri Sohan Lal was arrested and action proposed to be taken against the officer?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (c) Yes, as he was alleged in a written statement of two respectable persons to be an absconder in a murder case of Rohtak district.
- (b) His identity could not be established, as the persons whom he mentioned failed to give an assurance that he was not wanted in a murder case.
- (d) First part—it is not in the public interest to give out the name of the officer.

Second part—The matter is under consideration.

#### REPRESENTATION REGARDING ALLEGED INJUSTICE DONE TO SIKHS IN THE EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT

**\*843. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state (i) whether it is a fact that certain employees belonging to the Sikh community in the Excise and Taxation Department have made representations to the Government alleging injustice done to them; (ii) if so, what steps does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

First part.—Yes.

Second part.—Allegations of injustice contained in those representations were found to be baseless.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether it is a fact that promotion has been granted to certain Sikh Harijan employees; if so, on what grounds?

**Minister :** No Sikh Harijan employees have been granted any

[Minister for Labour and Excise]

promotion, but those who got it, were granted on the basis of merit and seniority.

APPOINTMENT OF LABOUR OFFICERS

**\*918. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Public Service Commission invited applications for appointment of Labour Officers ;
- (b) the number of the applications received ;
- (c) the number of names that were recommended by the Commission for the said post ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the list of all the names recommended by the Commission has been returned by the Government for the inclusion of more names or for recommending the name of a gentleman of a particular community ;
- (e) whether the Commission again recommended names for the post;
- (f) whether these names were the same or any addition or alteration was made therein ;
- (g) the number of gentlemen that were recommended in the first instance together with the number of those recommended the second time ;
- (h) whether the Labour Officers have been appointed out of the first list of names submitted by the Commission ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (i) on what principle i. e. on the basis of merits or for any other consideration the officers referred to above were appointed ;
- (j) the reasons for ignoring the recommendations of the Public Service Commission based on merits ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 93 (ninety three)
- (c) Six.
- (d) No.
- (e) (f) and (g) The question does not arise.
- (h) None of the posts referred to the East Punjab Public Service Commission have yet been filled up. Government have tem-

porarily appointed a senior officer of the Industries Department as Labour Officer against a vacancy which already existed.

- (i) The question does not arise.
- (j) Government had decided to postpone the setting up of the Labour Department due to financial stringency in this Province. The question of ignoring the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, therefore, does not arise.

#### UNIFORMS FOR TAHSIL CHAPRASIS

**\*657 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether any uniform is supplied to the Tahsil Chaprasis like the *piadas* and the peons of the Civil Courts; if not the reasons for the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Sardar Narotam Singh) : No. Attention is invited to Rule 13 of Appendix 16 of the Punjab Financial Rules Volume II in which it is laid down that the peons attached to the Tehsildars who are Gazetted Government servants are not provided with liveries.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Government consider the desirability of changing the rules?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether rules once made cannot be changed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No. They cannot be changed.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO LOW PAID GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

**\*667. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Government of India has recently sanctioned an increase of Rs. 10 per month in the dearness allowance of all its employees drawing less than Rs. 250 per month ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government has taken or propose to take any steps to lessen the hardships of its low-paid employees ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Government have this matter very much under their consideration and propose to take all desirable steps to lessen the hardships of their low-paid employees.

**NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS SCHOOLS IN THE EAST PUNJAB.**

**\*668. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of Primary, Middle and High Schools for girls and boys, respectively, in each district of the Province during the year 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 ;
- (b) the total number of the students in each of such schools during the aforesaid period ;
- (c) the number of Primary, Middle and High Schools opened for girls and boys, respectively, during the year 1948-49 ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open more schools for the education of the girls ; if so, the details of the scheme, if any, planned for the purpose ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a), (b) and (c) Statements giving the required information are placed on the table.<sup>1</sup>
- (d) Government intends to open four Girls Middle Schools in the year 1949-50 under the Development Scheme. Apart from this one high school and one middle school for girls may also be opened provided approval to this effect is received from the Government of India. It is not possible to give details of the Scheme at present.

**INQUIRY ABOUT SHRI B. S. GREWAL, I. C. S.**

**\*863. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether the enquiry into the conduct of Shri B. S. Grewal, I. C. S., has been completed ; if so, what action has been or is being taken in this case ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

Not yet. The second part of the question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that L. Duni Chand Ex—M.L.A. and Sardar Rattan Singh, M. L. A. made a regular complaint against this officer ?

**Minister :** A complaint was made by those two gentlemen.

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Was this complaint made in October, 1947 ?

**Minister :** I cannot say on what date this complaint was made as I have not got all the relevant papers with me.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it a fact that after seven months these two gentlemen were called by the Anti-Corruption Committee and all the details were given to that Committee?

**Minister:** The hon. Member cannot expect me to remember the dates on which certain individuals appeared before an enquiry agency.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the acting Superintendent of Police Mr. Narain was deputed to go into the case after the special enquiry agency had investigated?

**Minister:** No enquiry agency was set up for the investigation of this case. The case might have been entrusted to one or more officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was any report submitted by the Special Enquiry Agency to the Inspector General of Police, East Punjab ?

**Minister :** Special Enquiry Agency do not submit their reports to the I. G. Police. They submit their reports to the Anti-Corruption Committee.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Did the Inspector General of Police remark on the Special Enquiry Agency's report that Mr. Grewal should be suspended and prosecuted at once?

**Minister:** The hon. Member is referring to a certain matter which is confidential and I am not prepared to disclose the contents of a confidential document or any confidential communication that might have passed between the officers of the Government and the Government itself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this case was sent to the Central Government, Lord Mountbatten, Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru ? Was it of such an importance ?

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether a certain case is important or not is a matter of opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Provincial Government sent the relevant papers to the Central Government ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it a fact that the hon. Premier also holds very strong views about this matter?

**Minister:** There is no question of expression of opinion. I have stated that the matter is under enquiry.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it with the Government officers or with the Government?

**Minister:** I cannot appreciate the difference whether it is with the officers of Government or it is with the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it a fact that the department after completing the case has submitted it to the Minister concerned and it is at his table?

**Minister:** The hon. Member's information is incorrect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** At what stage is the case? Is it above the Minister?

**Minister:** Who is above the Minister?

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**REPRESENTATION MADE TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
ON THE COMPLAINT MADE BY GURPAUL SINGH 'WAHID' OF  
FEROZEPURE ABOUT BLACK MARKET**

**\*864. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether an enquiry was made on the complaint by one Gurpaul Singh, Wahid of Ferozepore about black-market;
- (b) whether again in the month of August 1948 a representation was made to His Excellency the Governor in this connection;
- (c) the result of enquiry and representation?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):-**

- (a) Enquiries made from the local officers reveal that no complaint from Shri Gurpaul Singh, Wahid of Ferozepore about black market was ever received by Government and as such no enquiry was made.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Supplementary question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** What supplementary question can the hon. Member ask in the face of the reply that has been given?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** He must prove his Binomial Theorem. (*Laughter*)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** A complaint was addressed to the Governor. Has it been received by the Minister concerned?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** No such complaint has been received by the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Has the Governor not sent that complaint to the Minister?



**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is repeating the same question over and over again. It is quite possible that His Excellency might not have sent it to the Minister.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** This complaint about black-marketing was made during the last session of the Assembly, leaflets were distributed and the matter was brought to the notice of the Government.

**Parliamentary Secretary:** This has not come to the notice of the Government.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** The question was raised by me during the last session and I was told that matter was under consideration.

**Minister.** We require notice.

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GRANT OF LICENCES FOR FOOD, CLOTH ETC. TO REFUGEES  
AND OTHERS.

**\*867. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any quota was fixed for refugees in the grant of licences etc. under the Food and Civil Supplies Department ;
- (b) whether the quota is the same throughout the Province or it varies in different districts ;
- (c) the proportion in each district between the refugees and others ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :-**

- (a) The general policy of Government in the administration of controls is that compatible with efficiency of distribution, refugees should be allotted 50% of the agencies set up for controlled articles. Thus, for both food and cloth retail shops, 50% of the depots are given to refugees provided there are sufficient men able and capable of doing the work. In the case of the cloth whole-sale business 25% shares in each District Syndicate are reserved for refugees.
- (b) The general policy is that stated at (a) above. There are, however, for practical reasons slight variations from district to district depending on local circumstances.
- (c) As stated above, while the policy is uniform, there are slight local variations for practical reasons. Detailed information regarding the position in each district would have to be collected from districts and this can be done if the hon. Member so wishes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary give an idea of the slight variations mentioned in his reply ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No. It is not possible to give any idea off-hand.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are the Government instructions being followed or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are being followed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any case, where these instructions have not been followed, come to the notice of the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any representation been made to the Government that the local people do not get their share according to the proportion fixed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No such complaint has been received.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received any complaint that the refugees are getting more cloth while the local people are getting much less ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware, the hon. Member might be in a position to say that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Government should know better.

#### KEROSENE OIL ALLOWANCE FOR POLICE STATIONS

**\*658. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total amount sanctioned by the Government for each of the police stations in Amritsar district for kerosene oil per mensem during the year 1948 ;
- (b) since when this kerosene oil allowance has been sanctioned ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the rate of kerosene oil has been revised during the last 8 years ; if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the kerosene allowance.

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) A statement is laid on the table.
- (b) The rate of kerosene oil allowance given in this statement were

sanctioned in July, 1943. Previous to that these allowances used to be half of these rates.

- (c) Yes. The rate of kerosene oil has been revised during the last eight years. The rate of kerosene oil per bottle after 1943, has however, risen very little. Government do not, therefore, propose to further increase the rates of kerosene oil allowances at present,
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### BORDER ALLOWANCE

**\*659. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any border allowance has been sanctioned for the supply of ration to the employees of the border police posts;
- (b) the amount sanctioned per mensem for each constable, Head Constable, Asst-Sub-Inspector, Sub-Inspector, Inspector, Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of Police, respectively;
- (c) whether similar allowance has also been sanctioned for the employees of the regular Police, Canal Department, Revenue Department, Schools and Hospitals, who are working in the border area; if not the reasons for the same?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (b) The Provincial Armed Police personnel of and below the rank of Sub-Inspector posted at the border are granted free cooked meals at a cost not exceeding Rs. 25/-p.m. per head.
- (c) No. Provincial Armed Police on the border is living in various pickets and under active service conditions and hence have been given this concession. Other staff is not living under those conditions and therefore, no such concession has been given to them.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know why any special allowance has not been sanctioned for the personnel of the regular police thanas and persons working in the schools etc., near the border because they are also open to the same risk in which the officers and ranks of Armed Police force live?

**Minister :** These allowances are not given in proportion to the danger to which a particular service is exposed. The members of the Armed Police Force have to live through conditions which are different from those officers who are not attached to such force.

REPRESENTATION OF REVENUE PATWARIS  
TO GOVERNMENT

**\*660. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the revenue patwaris of Amritsar and several other districts in East Punjab sent any representation to the Government regarding their grievances before resorting to strike ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) of this question be in the affirmative, what were their demands ;
- (c) whether these demands were taken into consideration by the Government; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) There main demands were :-
  - (i) that the post of patwari should be declared as pensionable.
  - (ii) that the grade of their pay should be revised to Rs. 50-3 80/4-100 equivalent to the the grade of a junior clerk in a Deputy Commissioner's Office.
  - (iii) that the refugee patwaris should be absorbed in those districts in which lands had been allotted to their relatives.
  - (iv) that the condition in paragraph 3.12 of the Punjab Land Records Manual should be waived and patwaris should be posted in their homes or within 10 miles of their homes.
- (c) Yes (i) and (ii) are still under consideration. A special Rehabilitation allowance of Rs. 10/-per mensem has, however, been granted to maal and rehabilitation patwaris from 1-10-1948 as a temporary measure. (iii) is not paracticable as extra patwaris are needed all over East Punjab and (iv) is not in the interests of public service.

OPENING OF A DEPARTMENT FOR CONSOLIDATION OF LANDS

**\*865. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government intends to open a permanent department for consolidation of lands ; if so, whether the Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors of the Co-operative department who had been working on consolidation work would be employed in the Consolidation Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

First part :- Yes.

Second part :- Yes, in all probability,

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any department been opened and work taken in hand ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Department has been opened. A Director has been appointed and he is finding out as to how much staff he would need.

#### EXTENSION AND RE-EMPLOYMENT OF JAIL OFFICERS

**\*866. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number and the names of Jail Officers who have been given extension of service or re-employed ;
- (b) the Superintendents who retired in the year 1948 and the Deputy Superintendents who have been promoted as Superintendents in their place ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Raghunandan Singh, Superintendent Jails, who was due to retire earlier than Pandit Hans Raj could not be relieved on the plea that none of the Deputy Superintendents was found fit for promotion to relieve him ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Pandit Hans Raj, Superintendent Jails retired later on and was relieved soon after ;
- (e) whether the Jail Officers while given extension or re-employed are medically examined for fitness to continue in office ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Two, Pandit Lal Chand and S. Raghunandan Singh.
- (b) First Part—Pandits Lal Chand, Hans Raj and Dwarka Nath Rikhey.  
Second Part—Sodhi Gian Singh, L. Pindi Dass Dhawan and L. Amar Nath Chadha.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No; nor any other officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that 4 Superintendents of Jail were to retire, Numbers 1, 2 and 4 were retired but number 3 was retained ?

**Minister :** I do not remember the dates of their retirement but nothing extraordinary was done and they retired on the dates on which they were due to retire except in the case where in the interest of service one Superintendent of Jail was given extension of service.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I refresh the memory of the hon. Minister by telling him that according to the dates of retirement number of S. Raghunandan Singh was 3 and that of Pandit Hans Raj was 4. Two persons before S. Raghunandan Singh were retired and one person after him that is Pandit Hans Raj was also retired but Sardar Raghunandan Singh was retained in service ?

**Minister :** I require notice to find out all these details.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when the time of retirement of the three officers came the hon. Minister called for the names of those Deputy Superintendents who could be promoted ? Is it also not a fact that he agreed to retire the two persons before S. Raghunandan Singh but retained him by saying that there was no suitable person who could be promoted to occupy his place, but when the time of retirement of the 4th person, namely, Pandit Hans Raj came he was asked to go away ?

**Minister :** The information given by the hon. Member is not correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that S. Raghunandan Singh in addition to being sickly is also not very efficient and that his retention in service is due to some other considerations ?

**Mr. Speaker :** When the hon. Member says that retention of a certain person in service is due to some other considerations, it is an insinuation and I have asked the hon. Members so many times not to impute motives.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In the interest of administration I want to know the reasons for which Nos. 1, 2 and 4 were retired and number 3 was retained in service ?

**Minister :** There was no question of showing any favour, the whole thing was done in the interest of service. At the time when extension was given there was no suitable officer who could be re-employed or promoted and therefore extension was given to S. Raghunandan Singh.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** There were suitable officers available at the time of retirement of Nos. 1 and 2 and also at the time of the retirement of No. 4 but when this particular person was to retire there was no suitable officer.



**Minister :** This is a matter of argument and opinion to which no reply is needed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What were the reasons for which Sardar Raghunandan Singh was kept in service while others were retired ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is repetition of the same question. The difficulty in the hon. Member's case is that he cannot be satisfied and wants an answer of his liking from the Government. But when such an answer is not forthcoming he begins to cross examine and cross examination is not permissible.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, are you satisfied by their replies ?  
(Laughter)

**Minister :** No question can be put to the hon. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not bother whether I am satisfied or not.

#### EAST PUNJAB P. W. D. ELECTRICITY BRANCH

**\*958. Sardar Piara Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) when is the Nangal Electricity Project expected to be completed ;
- (b) whether it is proposed to supply electric energy to the rural public for agricultural purposes also ;
- (c) the details of the proposed scheme of distributing electric energy ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

- (a) Supply of energy from Nangal Power Project is expected to commence sometimes in 1952. The project is expected to be completed in 1954-55.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The scheme of distributing electric energy will extend to 67 new towns in the East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Himachal Pradesh. Big blocks of power will be supplied to Delhi and to 800 tube-wells being installed by the Irrigation Branch. List of towns to be supplied is as follows :—

LIST OF TOWNS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH ENERGY

1. Rupar	23. Raikot	46. Surajpur Cement Works
2. Ambala	24. Khanna	47. Kalka
3. Karnal	25. Samrala	48. Dharampore
4. Panipat	26. Ludhiana	49. Kasauli
5. Indri	27. Jagraon	50. Dagshai
6. Abdullapur	28. Moga	51. Solan
7. Thanesar	29. Ferozepur	52. Simla
8. Safidon	30. Kotkapura	53. Jullundur
9. Jind	31. Fazilka	54. Hoshiarpur
10. Hansi	32. Abohar	55. Phagwara
11. Hissar	33. Muktsar	56. Nawanshahar
12. Bhiwani	34. Sangrur	57. Nakodar
13. Maham	35. Bhatinda	58. Rahon
14. Rohtak	36. Faridkot	59. Banga
15. Sonapat	37. Jaito	60. Garh Shankar
16. Nabha	38. Dharamkot	61. Haryana
17. Patiala	39. Gurmiana	62. Kapurthala
18. Malerkotla	40. Zera	63. Sultanpur
19. Rajpura	41. Makhu	64. Dhilwan
20. Sirhind	42. Naraingarh	65. Kartarpur
21. Ahmedgarh	43. New Capital Town	66. Bilaspur
22. Dhuri	44. Kharar	67. Nahan (Sirmoor)
	45. Kurali	

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** Is it not a fact that the town headquarter of the Tehsil in which Nangal project is being erected and which is only 9 miles from the site of the project is not included in the list of towns to which electricity is to be supplied ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Less important towns will be supplied with electricity when grid stations are established.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is Una included in any scheme of towns to which electricity is to be supplied ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Power will be supplied to Una and other places if there is sufficient load.

**Sardar Piara Singh :** When will it be possible to supply electricity to Garh Shankar and Hoshiarpur ?

**Minister :** Very soon.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether electricity is going to be supplied to the villages apart from the towns ?

**Minister :** Yes, the supply of electric power will be made available where there is sufficient load.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It has been stated in the main reply that towns will be supplied with electric power. May I know whether any villages also have been included in that schedule of towns?

**Minister :** Yes. They have been included.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government is in a position to apprise the House of the names of those districts where electricity will be made available under the scheme?

**Minister :** We will have so much electricity at our disposal that any demand for it will be fully met with.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether all the ilaqas of Haryana Prant will get the power?

**Minister :** Any demand for it will be fully met with.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that villages will be supplied with energy provided the load is sufficient. May I know what is his definition for "sufficient load"?

**Minister :** Sufficient load to make distribution economic.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** What is the minimum supply that you have laid down for the purpose?

**Minister :** It depends upon the locality where electricity is in demand and the purpose for which it is wanted.

#### HOLDING OF POLITICAL CONFERENCE AT VILLAGE BHALAN, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR

**\*976. Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Akalis held a Political Conference at village Bhalan, Tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur on the 24th and the 25th February, 1949 in spite of the fact that Section 144 had been enforced there ;
- (b) whether Government has received reports of the speeches made in this conference ;
- (c) what action, if any has the Government taken or propose to take against the speakers who made objectionable speeches and the sponsors of the Conference ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No political conference was held by Akalis at Bhalan on the 24th and 25th February, 1949. There was a Bhog ceremony of an Akhand Path on the 25th February, 1949, and a Diwan in the Gurdwara. There was thus no breach of the order issued by the District Magistrate under section 13 of the PPSA.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The speeches did not appear to be actionable and, therefore, no action is proposed to be taken.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** What is the source of hon. Minister's information ?

**Minister :** Not from the hon. Member.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** I want to enquire that if the reports have been received from the Deputy Commissioner or the Superintendent of Police, then they may not be dependable because these officers are pro-Akalis ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No insinuations should be made. May I ask the hon. Member to refrain from using objectionable or offensive language. All the hon. Members should be cautious in future.

**Minister :** I think he should withdraw this remark.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know whether Government is prepared to make further inquiry in the matter because my information is that a political conference was held by the Akalis and speeches were made ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member is prepared to say something definite and disclose the source of his information, then surely we shall re-examine the whole position.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** I have received a report from the Secretary of the Congress Committee which discloses the necessary information. May I know whether Government is prepared to investigate the matter on the basis of this report ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. The Government has not got the report so far.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Minister has stated that no Akali conference took place on the 24th or 25th February. May I enquire whether there was any public gathering on those dates ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to that question. There was a Bhog ceremony and Akhand Path on the 25th February, 1949 and also a Diwan in the Gurdwara. In other words there was a religious gathering.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know whether it is a fact that no Gurdwara exists in that village?

**Mr. Speaker :** Government is not expected to know that thing. That does not come under their administrative capacity.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** When there is no gurdwara, how could a Bhog Ceremony be arranged there?

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REPRESENTATION BY THE SHOPKEEPERS, GRAIN DEALERS  
ETC., OF OLD MANDI, KARNAL

**\*868. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether he received a representation on behalf of the shopkeepers, grain dealers and commission agents of the old mandi, Karnal to the effect that stalls of the refugees had left no space for grain market purposes ;
- (b) the authority under whose orders those stalls were put in the old mandi which is not evacuees' property ;
- (c) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to redress this grievance ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The old Mandi is an evacuee property. The refugees put up wooden stalls after the site had been approved by the Deputy Commissioner Karnal, in consultation with representatives of Municipal Committee, Karnal, for erecting stalls, but without waiting for allotment.
- (c) Action is already being taken by the Municipal Committee, Karnal, to put the stalls in proper shape leaving ample space for traffic. Such of the owners whose stalls obstruct traffic will be given another place for putting up their stalls.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact that a representation was made by the shopkeepers and businessmen of old mandi to the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal and sent a copy to the Government

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

that the refugees had constructed so many stalls there that no space was left for conducting any other business ?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation:** Some complaints might have been made in this regard. But when the Municipal Committee has permitted the refugees to erect the stalls, no notice can be taken of those complaints.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that that Mandi is the property of a Muslim evacuee and not that of the Municipal Committee. If so, does not the administration of that mandi fall under the jurisdiction of the hon. Minister and the Department under him ?

**Minister :** I am fully aware that that is an evacuee property and that is why stalls have been allowed to be constructed there.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is the responsibility of the Municipal Committee to administer the evacuee property ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member should know that when Municipal Committee is consulted in the matter of construction of stalls etc., it must be put in charge of the administration of that mandi.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that stalls have been constructed in such a large number by the refugees, that almost no space has been left for any other business.

**Minister :** The hon. Member need not worry about that. After all the stalls are meant for refugees. There is no harm in that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharama :** Is it the policy of the Government that in the case of refugees, observance of any law or municipal rules is not necessary ?

**Minister :** No, we do maintain the sanctity of law but if we have to relax it in the interest of refugees, we shall not hesitate to do that. (*Applause*).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is the considered policy of the Government, that so far as refugees are concerned, they are immune from the restrictions of law or a bye-law ?

**Minister :** No. But no notice will be taken of the observations of those who are opposed to the interests of refugees.



**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any Minister who talks nonsense (*wahiyat*). . . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. I cannot allow the hon. Member to use unparliamentary language. May I ask him to withdraw that remark ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I withdraw, Sir.

### REQUISITIONING OF A SHOP FOR A REFUGEE

**\*966. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that shop No.50/164 situated in Subzi Mandi, Jagadhri, district Ambala, belonging to L. Banun Mal was requisitioned by Government in December, 1948, for the purpose of rehabilitating a refugee named S. Sewa Singh.
- (b) whether the owner made an application to the urban rehabilitation officer, Ambala district against the requisition order referred to in part (a) above and the said officer ordered the Tehsildar Jagadhri to restore the possession to the owner.
- (c) whether it is a fact that the possession of the said shop has not been restored to the owner so far; if so, the reasons thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :-**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The owner made a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala against the said requisition order, but he was informed that nothing could be done in the matter, since the shop had been requisitioned for the purpose of rehabilitation of refugees.
- (c) Does not arise.

### CONSTRUCTION OF PACCA ROADS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*959. Sardar Piara Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

- (a) the names of the roads in Hoshiarpur District proposed to be made pucca in the next year ;
- (b) whether the Government propose to make Pucca roads from Garhshankar to Anandpur and from Hoshiarpur to Tanda ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) The programme of road development is still under consideration of the Government.
- (b) In view of answer to (a) above this does not arise.

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**MOTOR VEHICLES BOUGHT BY THE TRANSPORT  
DEPARTMENT.**

**\*967. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) total number of vehicles bought date-wise by the Transport Department of the Government so far together with their cost ;
- (b) the number of vehicles bought for exclusive use of the Transport Department together with the number of these ordered on behalf of other Government Departments ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) The total number of chasis purchased so far is 323, the approximate cost of which is Rs. 25,00,000/-.

Date-wise they were purchased as follows :

50	Ford chasis.	..	20-4-48
50	Chevrolet Chasis	..	29-5-48
27	" "	..	27-7-48
46	" "	..	22-8-48
7	" "	..	14-9-48
60	Ford Chasis	..	16-9-48
60	International Chasis	..	5-12-48
17	" "	..	12-1-49
6	Chevrolet Chasis	..	13-1-49

- (b) 158 have been allotted to other Government Departments and remaining 165 are ear-marked for the Transport Department.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Sir, since the time is over, will I be permitted to ask supplementaries later on ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes, I will allow the hon. Member.

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**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**  
**INCOME FROM MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTY.**

**\*1034. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) The amount of annual income which the Government expects to realize in various forms from the Muslim Evacuees' Property left in the East Punjab;
- (b) The way in which the Government propose to utilize this income?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) The amount of annual income anticipated in various forms from the Muslim Evacuee Property left in the East Punjab will be as shown in the statement attached as appendix 'A'.
- (b) The accounts of the balance left over after expenditure on management etc., are to be gone into with Pakistan Government at the Inter Dominion level after regular intervals in accordance with the decisions of the Inter Dominion Conference held at Karachi on the 10th and 13th January, 1949.

**APPENDIX 'A'**

Statement showing the annual income anticipated in various forms from the Muslim Evacuees Property left in the East Punjab.

Head of income.	Income anticipated in 1949-50.
1. Rent of Urban immoveable property.	Between rupees 40 to 50 Lakhs.
2. Rent of Factories.	10 Lakhs.
3. Rent of evacuee agricultural lands.	10 Lakh
4. Receipts from village forest.	1 Lakh.

**NOTE :** The sale proceeds of looted property not being income from the Muslim evacuee property has been excluded from the above statement.

**Shri Virendra :** How much money has so far been collected on account of the Muslim evacuees' property ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I require notice.

**Shri Virendra :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that the rents of the properties of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan are greatly reduced?

**Minister :** We have received press reports but official confirmation is not available as yet. We will take this matter to the Inter Dominion Conference which is scheduled to meet on the 2nd and 3rd April.

**Shri Virendra :** What action do the Government propose to take on the representation made by industrialists who have been uprooted from the West Punjab that the reduction of rents of their properties in the West Punjab is causing great hardships on them and that here also rents should be reduced ?

**Minister :** As far as those industrialists who gave tenders and whose tenders were accepted, are concerned Government is not prepared to revise the rates at this stage.

**Shri Virendra :** At what stage will the rates be revised ?

**Minister :** Time has not yet come.

**Shri Virendra :** When will that time come ?

**Minister :** I do not think there is any justification to reduce the rents and we are going to stick to those rents.

**Shri Virendra :** Till what time is the Government going to stick to those rents ?

**Minister :** We are going to stick to the contracts that have been agreed upon between the Government and the industrialists.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know the basis on which rents of the Muslim evacuees' property have been fixed ?

**Minister :** Rental value and similar factors as prevailed before partition.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Has the Government ever considered the desirability of paying out of those rents some portion of money to the refugees according to their claims for rental income from their properties left in Pakistan ?

**Minister :** It is not possible to pay any money as suggested by the hon. Member because that would involve mixing up of accounts. It has been settled at Inter-Dominion level that the Accountants General of the two provinces are to settle accounts. No advances can be made to a refugee from one account who is entitled to some money on some other score.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** I do not want you to mix the accounts. I want to know whether the Government have considered the desirability of making payments to refugees up to the extent of rents on their properties left in Pakistan ?

**Minister :** I have made the position clear as to why it is not possible to make any payments to refugees out of the amount realised on the properties left by Muslims on this side. The refugees have to wait till the amounts collected on account of rents on their properties are transferred by Pakistan to the Indian Dominion.

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### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### GRANT OF LICENCES OF REVOLVERS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**216. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of applications for licence of revolvers registered in the Hoshiarpur district during the year 1948 and in January and February 1949 ;
- (b) the number of applications granted, rejected and still pending with the authorities, respectively ;
- (c) the list of persons who were granted licences for revolvers during the period referred to above ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret that reply to the question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

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#### ALLOTMENT OF A EVACUEE HOUSE

**217. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Kartar Singh son of Sardar Deva Singh, Jat from district Montgomery has been settled in village Kojha, Thana Adampur, district Jullundur;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he made a representation to the effect that Harnam Singh son of Amar Singh a local resident of the above referred to village has occupied the house of a Muslim evacuee Sultan Ali and that the same should be allotted to him for residence;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the authorities concerned allotted the above referred to house to Sardar Kartar Singh son of Sardar Deva Singh on 25-6-48;

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

- (d) whether it is a fact that the Tahsildar (R) turned out Harnam Singh and others with Police help and put Sardar Kartar Singh allottee in possession thereof.
- (e) whether it is a fact that the above referred to Harnam Singh a local resident and others have got the same house re-allotted in their name, under the orders of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur; if so, the reasons for the same?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) This is incorrect. Harnam Singh was a solitary non-Muslim land owner in the village during partition days. His house was burnt during disturbances. He was allotted this house on 6-10-47 and remained in possession throughout. Kartar Singh refugee obtained an order of allotment on 25-6-48. On 6-2-49. Harnam Singh applied that Kartar Singh had another house in this village which could accommodate four families and therefore he had no right to obtain this house. Besides, he owned a house in his original village Bal, whereas Harnam Singh did not own any house but owned land in this village. Sardar Harnam Singh rightly got this house.

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T. A. DRAWN BY HON. MINISTERS.

**218. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount of Travelling Allowance drawn by each of the hon. Ministers for the month of February, 1949 ;
- (b) the amount of Travelling Allowance drawn by the hon. Premier, hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, and hon. Minister for Public Works separately for their visit to village Kairon, District Amritsar on 12-2-1949 ;
- (c) the Travelling Allowance drawn by the hon. Minister for Public Works for the month of January, 1949 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

The required information is given below :—

- (a) hon. Premier Rs. 728-4-0
- hon. Minister for Home and Revenue Rs. 561-2-0



Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation	Rs. 800-0-0	
Hon. Minister for Public Works	Rs. 412-8-0	(drawn so far)
Hon. Minister for Labour and Excise	Rs. 910-0-0	
Hon. Minister for Finance	Rs. 887-10-0	
Hon. Minister for Development	Rs. 1438-2-0	
(b) Hon. Premier	No travelling allowance was drawn for this journey.	
Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.	Rs. 97- 8-0 (from Jullundur to Kairon and back)	
Hon. Minister for Public Works.	No travelling allowance has been drawn as yet.	
(c) Hon. Minister for Public Works.	Rs. 688-12-0.	

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**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, AMRITSAR, FOR THEIR VISIT TO KAIRON, DISTRICT AMRITSAR**

**219. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowances drawn by the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police, Amritsar respectively for their visit to village Kairon, District Amritsar on 12th February, 1949.

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

The Deputy Commissioner had drawn Rs. 10/8/- and the Superintendent Police has submitted a bill for Rs. 24/10/- to the Deputy Inspector General of Police for countersignature.

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**COMMUNIST DETENUS RELEASED ON APOLOGIES**

**220. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the communist detenues confined in the different jails and police lock-ups under Public Safety Act up till 10th March, 1949 ;
- (b) the number of the detenues referred to above who tendered apologies ;
- (c) the number of detenues whose apologies were accepted and they were released ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 212.
- (b) None.
- (c) Does not arise.

**R. S. S. WORKERS DETAINED UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY ACT**

**221. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of R.S.S. workers detained under the Public Safety Act up till 10th March, 1949 ;
- (b) whether all of them have been treated as political detenus after their arrests ;
- (c) whether any of them was treated as III class detenus after his arrest ; if so, for what period he was treated as such ;
- (d) the number of the detenus who are being treated as 1st and 2nd Class detenus now-a-days ;
- (e) whether any women workers of R. S. S. are detained till now ; if so, the number of such workers ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 493.
- (b) and (c) They are treated as 'B' class detenus, though some of them were put in 'C' class in the first instance for short periods.
- (d) 7 'A' and 482 'B' class.
- (e) None.

**CONVICTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH R. S. S. SATYAGRAH**

**222 Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of the persons convicted in connection with the R. S. S. Satyagrah movement up till 10th March, 1949 ;
- (b) the number of the convicts who are being treated as A & B class prisoners respectively in the Jails at present ;
- (c) the number of those convicts who applied for better class treatment after their convictions together with the number of the applications accepted up till 10th March, 1949 ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) 2754.
- (b) 16 in 'B' Class only.
- (c) First part 55 .
- (d) Second part 16 .

## FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO COMMUNIST DETENUS .

**223. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of communist detenus who applied for the grant of family allowances up till 10th March, 1949 ;
- (b) number of the applications granted ;
- (c) number of cases still pending with the Government ;
- (d) the maximum and the minimum family allowances granted to single detenu so far ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 73.
- (b) Nil .
- (c) 60 .
- (d) Does not arise .

## BAD CHARACTERS IN JAILS

**224. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of bad characters or goondas confined for more than one month in Jails or police lock-ups under the Public Safety Act in each district of the Province respectively from 1-4-48 to 10-3-49 ;
- (b) the number of bad characters who were detained for one month in each district during the period referred to in (a) above ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) and (b) A statement is given below :—

Name of Distt.	No. of bad characters or goondas confined for more than one month in Jails or police lock ups under the Public Safety Act in each district of the Province respectively from 1-4-48 to 10-3-49.	No. of bad characters who were detained for one month in each district during the period from 1-4-48 to 10-3-49.
Hissar.	1	8
Rohtak.	...	2
Gurgaon.	2	...
Karnal.	...	5
Ambala.	...	...

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Simla.	...	...
Hoshiarpur.	3	1
Jullundur.	...	4
Ludhiana.	...	114
Kangra.	...	...
Ferozepur.	3	...
Gurdaspur.	...	5
Amritsar.	10	4

DISTRIBUTION OF CEMENT IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR

**225. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the quantity of cement allotted to Amritsar District during the year 1948 ;
- (b) the quantity of cement allotted to Sub-tehsil Patti during the period referred to in (a) above ;
- (c) the quantity of cement actually supplied in Sub-tehsil Patti;
- (d) the total number of applications for cement registered with the Civil Supply Officer, Amritsar from the Patti Sub-tehsil area ;
- (e) the names of such applicants who were granted permits or were recommended permits by the District authorities and the quantity of cement sanctioned to each one of them in Tarn Taran Tehsil ;
- (f) the quantity of cement actually distributed for urban and rural areas of each of tehsil of Amritsar district during the year 1948 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

The reply is as under:-

- (a) 18060 bags.
- (b) No separate quota was allotted to Sub-Tahsil Patti.
- (c) 90 bags,
- (d) Three
- (e) List is attached<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> kept in the library

(f)	Name of Tehsil.	* Quantity supplied during 1948		Total
		Urban	Rural	
1.	Amritsar.	13992 bags	1555 bags	15,547 bags
2.	Tarn Taran	410 „	1497 „	1,947 „
3.	Ajnala	—	40 „	40 „
4.	Sub Tehsil Patti	90 „	—	90 „
		14,532 bags	309 bags	17,624 bags

\*Includes 3773 bags for which permits have yet to be collected.

#### REFUGEES OF VILLAGE DAUDPURA WHO WERE GIVEN TACCAVI.

**226. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- the names of refugees of village Daudpura, Sub-tehsil Patti, district Amritsar who were given taccavis of different natures;
- the amount given to each of the refugees referred to above as (i) food taccavi, (ii) Agricultural implements taccavi and (iii) persian wheel taccavi, respectively ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

A Statement showing the information asked for is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>.

#### REFUGEES OF POLICE STATION WALTOHA WHO WERE GIVEN TACCAVI.

**227. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- the number of refugees in each of the villages of Police Station Waltoha, Sub-tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ;
- the number of refugees who were granted food taccavis in each village;
- the number of refugees who were granted (i) Oxen taccavi and (ii) Agricultural implements taccavi in each of the villages referred to above ;
- the total amount actually given in each of the villages for food and other taccavis separately in each of these villages ?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:** A statement containing the information required is laid on the table<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Kept in the library.

<sup>2</sup> Kept in the library

OCCUPATION TAX IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

**228. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state the names and addresses of those persons tehsil-wise, upon whom Occupation Tax has been assessed by the District Board, Ambala, together with the amount of tax in each case and the community to which each of them belong ?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

The information required by the hon. Member will take some time before it is collected and it is felt that the result will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved. If, however, the hon. Member is keen on having the required information, it will be supplied in due course.

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APPOINTMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL INSPECTORS.

**229. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of Industrial Inspectors appointed in the year 1948;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Hindu-agriculturists with requisite qualifications applied for these posts ;
- (c) any Hindu-agriculturist has been selected for those posts; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any ex-servicemen have been appointed in the posts referred to above?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) 25.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) and (d). In the absence of any specific instructions, when the posts of Industrial Inspectors were advertised applicants were not specifically required to state whether they were agriculturists, non-agriculturists or ex-servicemen. Applicants for these posts, therefore, did not supply this information and selection was made on merits alone.



APPOINTMENT OF SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE IN THE PROVINCE.

**230. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police appointed in the East Punjab after partition;
- (b) the number of Hindu agriculturists and the ex-servicemen appointed to these posts respectively ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret that reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

**231. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the gazetted officers and the non-gazetted officers and the clerks separately appointed by the Civil Supplies Department ;
- (b) the number of Hindu agriculturists and ex-servicemen appointed to these posts, respectively ;
- (c) the method by which the appointments were made ;
- (d) whether any Selection Board was constituted for the purpose; if so, the personnel thereof ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I regret that reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

CARTOON IN NEWSPAER

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** May I draw your attention, Sir, to the point that was referred to by me the other day regarding the cartoon that appeared in one of the papers. Can we expect your ruling on the point today ?

**Mr. Speaker:** I was expecting the hon. Member to see me in my room. I would ask him to discuss the matter with me informally before I give my ruling on the floor of the House.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
IRRIGATION-ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.**

**Minister For Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh): I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,71,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of Irrigation-Establishment Charges.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,71,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the years 1949-50 in respect of Irrigation-Establishment Charges.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to hear that there is an acute shortage of water in my district. The hon. Members of this House are probably not aware of the fact that the first canal to be constructed in India was in District Hissar. The first canal in the world was constructed in 1352 A. D. during the reign of Feroze Shah Tughlak. It was in Hissar. Afterwards, when the canal system was expanded during the British regime and a net-work of canals was laid in the province, Hissar was completely ignored. The district from which canal-system took birth is suffering serious shortage of water. The shortage is felt not only for irrigation but also for drinking purposes. Had this been the condition in some other country, people of that area would have revolted against the Government. In our country, however, the Government has not cared to make any arrangement for providing water in this district. For a considerably long time the inhabitants of this area have been agitating in this connection and in every address that has been presented to the Governor, Premier or some other Minister during his visit to this place, it has been pointed out that there is dearth of water not only for irrigating fields but even for drinking purposes.

**Mr. Speaker :** Irrigation of men comes under Health Department.  
(laughter)

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Mr. Speaker, I admit that there is plenty of water in the district to which you belong, therefore you may cut joke (*mazak*), but if you had only visited my district during summer, when there is dust all round and people thirst for water, you would have realised our difficulty.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is no joke (*mazak*). This does come under Public Health. I may inform the hon. Member that I have been to that place.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** You have not appreciated our difficulties. Sir, when I say that there is not water enough for men to drink, I only mean to emphasise that in these circumstances water could not be had for the irrigation of our lands. However, we are pleased to find that some steps are being taken by this Government to remove our difficulty. But I must say that till the time some tangible results are achieved, it is difficult for us to get rid of apprehensions in this connection because we have had very sad experience in the past. We are deprived of the water of Western Jumna Canal just for a foolish controversy between Chetan Brahma and Syed Barwala who wanted to benefit their respective villages. This is not all. The people belonging to my part of the province have met so many disappointments that they have lost faith in all sorts of schemes. They cannot think that water would ever be given to them for irrigating their lands. I would therefore request the hon. Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Home and Revenue that he should somehow assure the inhabitants of my ilaqa that no injustice would be done to them this time and that sufficient supply of water would be made available to them as a result of the irrigation schemes which are under execution. I may tell the hon. Minister that such fears are haunting not only the ignorant and the ill-informed people of my ilaqa but are being harboured by well informed well wishers of this Government like Pandit Neki Ram himself who gave a statement in the press that he was not sure whether or not water would be made available to them from Bhakra.

I think the main reason underlying these apprehensions is that for so many years the people of Haryana Prant have based their hopes on the Bhakra Dam scheme. They have been dreaming that some day like the people of the West Punjab they would also prosper when the scheme materialises. They think that they have the most preferential right to water from Bhakra as the scheme was primarily evolved for their benefit and they feel greatly disappointed when somebody tells them that water for this place may go to districts other than those of Haryana Prant. They say that water from this source should only be supplied to other parts of the province when their needs have been fully satisfied. I believe, Sir, that they are perfectly in the right. The four districts of Haryana Prant have suffered from want of water for so long that it is not possible to adequately describe the hardships they have undergone. I may also point out that supply of sufficient water will not only be a cause of great relief to the people who have been intently and wistfully looking

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to this day but will solve the food problem, if not of the whole of India, at any rate of the East Punjab completely. In these circumstances, I reiterate that when time comes for the allotment of water from Bhakra, Government should see that for reasons which I have already explained, sufficient supply is made available to this ilaqa as it deserves most. Water from this place may be given to other districts only when the needs of our people have been fully met. I am really sorry to say that the answers to some questions in this connection which have been given on the floor of this House by the Minister-in-Charge have invariably been vague. But I, however, trust that these vague answers do not indicate any adverse decision and Government will do all in its power to help those who need it most. These needy people of my ilaqa have been exercising extraordinary patience for a very long time and it is not possible for them to do so any longer. If steps are not taken at this stage to satisfy them, I have fears that they may go to the extent of putting any Government in hot waters. They have been kept on tenter hooks for so long that they appear to be fed up with false hopes and nobody can tantalize them for any further length of time. Therefore it is time that Government should understand their state of mind and do all it can to make them comfortable and happy.

Sir, in addition to the Bhakra scheme I wish to place a few more suggestions before the Government which I think would prove very useful for the Zamindars as also for the Government who will be in a position to raise more revenue. The first thing which I mean to suggest is that due consideration should be given to the scheme of Mr. Khosla who was a Chief Engineer of our Province. He proposed that the surplus water of the river Sutlej which was not utilized and went straight into the Ocean should be made use of in our ilaqa which was now getting a small supply from Western Jumna Canal. It is a very good idea and the Government should try to give it a practical shape by constructing two or three non-perennial channels for the benefit of Haryana Prant. This arrangement can be made to last for two or three years, that is up to the time when water would be supplied from Bhakra. I am convinced that these non-perennial channels will do a great good to the people. We already have non-perennial channel which issues from the Tosham Branch and has proved to be of great service. I am sure that if a few more channels like this are arranged even for a few months in a year for four or five years we will become quite prosperous, because I think a large area of land can be irrigated and thus can produce more food-grains. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should give a careful consideration to this suggestion. For this purpose it would do well to re-examine its

old scheme on the subject. Besides, this scheme will not involve very huge expenditure either ; it can be put into effect at the cost of only four or five lakhs of rupees. These channels can also be utilised at the time of the starting of the Bhakra Dam Canals. So this scheme of non-perennial channels cannot put any extra expenditure on the Government; moreover the actual expenditure involved will not be much. It will, however, go a long way to solve a number of the difficulties of my ilaqa.

I am afraid the Government has certain prejudices against this scheme. It is due to the fact that it was rejected by an officer—an Englishman—during the previous regime simply because it was sponsored by an Indian, on the plea that it would involve a large expenditure. He maintained that, in view of the Bhakra Dam scheme, there was no need for the scheme of non-perennial channels. I will now urge upon the Government to rise above those past prejudices and the scheme should be reconsidered.

There is one thing more to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. It is another method to increase the canal-water supply to the agriculturists. The main channels of the canals are at present under the control of the Irrigation Department while the outlets are left to the care of the farmers themselves. Now the trouble is that the farmers perpetually quarrel among themselves and they do not excavate the mud-deposits from the beds of the outlets. As a result of that they do not get as much water as they would otherwise get. It would be better if the control of those outlets is also taken over by the Government itself and the expenditure involved in that can be realised from the farmers along with the land revenue. If the outlets are properly cleared of mud, the farmers can easily get more canal water. In my constituency, a large area of land at the tail remains unirrigated simply because the minors are not properly excavated. Besides, my ilaqa is situated at the tail of the canal. Whatever little water we can get, does not reach us on account of the neglect of the canal minors. I hope the Government will look into the matter.

There is one thing more which I would like to place before the Government. Being himself an Advocate, the hon. Home Minister must have come across cases of canal breaches. I have myself appeared in a number of cases of this type. There is usually no watch over the channels and then the farmers have not the sense to report such breaches to the authorities. The officials of the Department deliberately show the breaches as cuts made by the villagers. The result is that heavy fines are



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imposed on them for no fault of their own. The officials act either out of carelessness or advisedly to avoid their own responsibility. Thus they show the breaches as cuts, while the poor villagers have, in most of the cases, no hand in such matters. I personally know that in many cases of breaches of this kind the officials showed them as cuts in their papers and the poor villagers were made to pay heavy fines to the tune of 50 or 60 thousand rupees for no fault of theirs. The officials of the Irrigation Department usually belong to the cities or they come of a non-agriculturist stock. As such, they have no knowledge of the problems and difficulties of the farmers and very often they commit mistakes while discharging their duties. The officials should be instructed to arrive at decisions in such matters only after making careful investigation.

There is another difficulty of the zamindars of my district. The Government has appointed there a Canal Magistrate to deal with all the cases in connection with canals. I think this post exists only in our Division. I admit that there should be a watch over the canals. But my experience shows that this Canal Magistrate is mostly responsible for spreading ill-will against the Government among the public. For instance, he puts the farmers to a great inconvenience and hardship and punishes them with heavy fines for petty offences such as trespassing of the canal road by some stray cattle. At the most, the Tehsildar can fine a few rupees in such cases. But the fact is that the zamindars of the four districts of the Ambala Division, namely Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon, have to face a lot of harassment in such petty cases of the violation of the canal rules and a good deal of their time is thus wasted. I personally had to go no less than four times in connection with a case of this kind, but every time the Magistrate did not turn up. As a result of that, hundreds of people kept waiting for him for two days. Now if our Government wants that the farmers must produce more food, it should try to remove their difficulties and should provide them necessary facilities in order to save their time. They are made to waste a lot of their time in such needless litigation. This is clearly a national loss. They cannot devote themselves fully to their work on account of this litigation and, as a result of that, the production of foodgrains has decreased. If our Government really wants to increase the production of foodgrains, it is necessary that the farmers should be saved from unnecessary litigation. What I am therefore driving at is that this practice has neither been useful to the public nor to the Government. The duties of the Canal Magistrates can be entrusted to Tehsildars or 1st class Magistrates without any loss of efficiency. At some places, Tehsildars have actually been vested with powers of first class Magistrates; so this can be done without any difficulty.



Since I am going to conclude my speech I reiterate that the problem of getting water for drinking purposes is of utmost importance, especially for the people of our ilaqa. Sir, you said that this matter concerns the Department of Health. But I wish to submit that if the officers of the canal department put obstacles in their way, what can the Health Department do. Sir, it is my humble request to the Government that water from Sirhind Canal which passes through Patiala state should at least be supplied to those parts which stand in need of drinking water. There are some territories, for instance *Badlada*, which are quite fertile and green but there the problem of drinking water is very acute. The Department's first concern should be the provision of water to these people. Water and air are the two blessings of God which have been created by Him in abundance and therefore should not be denied to anybody living in a civilized state. So, immediate efforts in this direction should be made. I may point out that with regard to this matter all the hon. Members from the Hariana Prant are united. They should present a united front and submit a common demand with all the force they can muster because we cannot tolerate the present state of affairs.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*)

Sir, before the partition our Province had foodgrains enough and to spare. Punjab was then known as the granary of India. It was mainly due to the fact that in this Province canal system had been highly developed. But now in East Punjab we have very few canals and the partition has left our province a deficit area. It is a matter of regret that although there is an acute shortage of foodgrains and our Government should make an all-out effort to overcome this difficulty, yet nothing is being done in this direction. On the contrary, the present Government has decided to postpone some of the Post-war Development Schemes. It is evident from the Memorandum where it is stated that "considerations of Nakodar Bund and Damdama Canals have been postponed". So instead of making provisions for making new canals, even the schemes provided for in the last budget estimates, have been shelved. Now if you just take into consideration the foodgrains position in the East Punjab, you will find that the province is short of no less than three lakh tons. What is more surprising is that while we have enough of grains and barley there is a shortage of wheat which is the staple food of Punjabis. We have a reputation for being wheat-eating people and also for taking superior diet. But according to the new rationing system inferior wheat with a mixture of gram and barley is being given to us. We are glad to learn that the Government of India has laid great emphasis on an early attainment of self-sufficiency in the matter of foodgrains. The hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru declared

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in the Parliament the other day that from 1951 we shall stop all imports of foodgrains and by that time every province should strive hard to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains. We fervently hope that the East Punjab Government will embark on schemes to achieve not only self-sufficiency but also to produce a surplus to feed others. Now, Sir, all eyes are turned towards Bhakra Dam Scheme. It is hoped that on its completion we will have plenty of foodgrains. But it is a distant dream. It is not going to bear fruit earlier than 1955. Before partition our province was leading other provinces in the matter of foodgrains production. But now it is at the bottom in the list. So we had to reconcile ourselves to the decrease in ration per capita.

Sir, I wish to submit that the policy of the Government in setting apart a sum of Rs. 2,30,800 for two thousand wells to be sunk in East Punjab is beyond my comprehension. I cannot understand how on earth two thousand wells can be sunk with this petty amount. But on the other hand Government is spending enormous amounts on the import of foodgrains so that they may be distributed among the people at cheaper rates. Thus the Government is undergoing a heavy loss. My submission is that instead of incurring this huge loss it should take steps to spend this money on the sinking of wells. This will result in greater production and self-sufficiency.

Now I come to the manures and other schemes for producing more foodgrains. Under the Green Manuring Scheme, Government would be able to produce an additional quantity of 81,000 maunds of foodgrains. It is also anticipated that there would be an additional quantity of 80,000 maunds of foodgrains under the scheme for the distribution of Ammonium Sulphate on subsidised basis. This is not all. By sinking surface percolation wells Government would be able to get an additional quantity of 96,000 maunds of foodgrains. The total quantity of foodgrains under these schemes according to the calculations of the Government comes to 4,57,000 maunds which is much below the quantity of 17,000 tons of foodgrains. Besides, our population goes on increasing at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, which means a yearly increase of 1,80,000 and if we allow 6 chhataks of foodgrains per head, then we require an additional quantity of 22,500 tons of foodgrains. According to these calculations, we need more and more foodgrains.

**Mr. Speaker :** Let us not take food for one year (*Laughter*).

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** According to the above-mentioned schemes, the output will be much below the specified quantity of 17000 tons of foodgrains. At the same time there will be a yearly deficit of 22,500 tons of foodgrains. Instead of devising ways and means to increase our food production, Government seems to be very busy with different schemes, which I am sure would not be of any help to them. The Prime Minister of India has been repeating it often that our country would be self-supporting so far as production of foodgrains is concerned by 1951 when we will no longer have to depend on food imports. Other provinces, too, are making an all-out effort in devising ways and means to make up the food deficiency, and I am sure, they will be self-sufficient in due course of time. If this state of affairs continues in our province, I am sure, our province alone would lag behind in making up the food deficiency.

**Mr Speaker :** I think this is a fit subject for to-morrow when we are taking up agriculture.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I am developing my points on certain matters regarding the working of the Irrigation Department.

I wish to point out that before the partition our province was producing the largest quantity of long staple cotton in the whole of the country. But after the partition we are left with a share of 4% of this production while 96% of this production has gone to the share of West Punjab.

Besides, the position in regard to sugar is this that we are facing a huge deficit and we are thus obliged to import about 2 lakh tons of sugar yearly from the United Provinces and Bihar. At the same time we find the Director of Agriculture, Sardar Lal Singh, who has been to America and has had much experience on all matters pertaining to agriculture, issuing statements to the effect that our province has surpassed all the provinces and States in growing fruits. On the other hand, we find that our province has not topped the list either in food production or in fruit growing. After all what is all this due to. If we want to increase the production of foodgrains, it is in the fitness of things to devise ways and means with a view to making up the deficiency. The construction of Bhakra Dam project will not solve our problem. This scheme can be undertaken at a time when we have reached a certain stage. Here I am reminded of an Urdu verse which runs as under and which aptly applies here :-

ता तर्थाक अज इराक आवुरदा शबद,  
मार गुज्रीदा मुर्दा बवद।

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

ਤਾ ਤਟਯਾਕ ਅਜ਼ ਇਟਾਕ ਆਵੁਰਦਾ ਨਵਰ  
ਮਾਤ ਗੁਜੀਦਾ ਮੁਤਦਾ ਬਵਰ ।

What I wish to point out is this that it should be the policy of the Government to stress the need for exploration of ground water sources to provide irrigation supplies to irrigate areas in order to increase foodgrain production. But we find that our Government is not taking any interest in exploring other possibilities but is very much after the schemes only.

I have gone through the Memorandum Explanatory of The Budget and the New Expenditure and I have not come across any item which would go to prove the completion of any Irrigation schemes. In fact, no efforts whatsoever have been made to work out these schemes successfully. It will not be out of place to mention here that some of the schemes which were in the post-war-re-construction plan, like the Nikodar Bund Scheme and Dum Dum Scheme have been given up only last year by our Government.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** That was not an Irrigation Scheme.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** That was. I challenge the statement of the hon. Minister. It was an Irrigation Scheme, because if completed, it would have irrigated about 80,000 acres of land, and the construction of the Bund would have raised the surface of water in the wells of some areas in Jullundur District with the result that water supply for irrigation purposes would have been facilitated. I hope the hon. Minister who belongs to Jullundur district will pay his special attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, all-out efforts are being made to devise schemes for establishing capital towns in the province. These towns are going to be established on most fertile lands covering about 25 to 30 thousand acres. Similarly, industrial towns are being established at Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Jullundur and some other stations. If these towns are established on the fertile lands, I am sure, this will result in the further deterioration of the agricultural output of the province. The main problem with which we are faced with is the food problem and we must devise ways and means to overcome this food shortage. There is no gainsaying the fact that the prosperity of the province depends upon irrigation. It is but meet and proper on our part to make strenuous efforts to mobilize all forces and thus utilize the entire land that can

possibly be put under cultivation. Here I cannot do without saying this that the Director of Agriculture is of the opinion that the existing arrangements of manure supply are not adequate and that it is not possible to bring those lands under cultivation which mainly depend on rain. He is also of the opinion that unless the zamindars who do not take any pains to carry out the instructions for improving their lands, are made to do so there can be no increase in the agricultural produce of our province. We should not be unmindful of the fact that it is through irrigation and irrigation alone that we can increase the agricultural produce of our province.

Our Government has supplied about 15,000 k. w. of electric energy to the West Punjab Government. This energy could have easily been utilized for working tube-wells which are sorely needed in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. If we had utilized this energy, I am sure, we would have been in a position to produce more foodgrains than is expected by the completion of the Bhakra Dam scheme. Now instead of utilising this electric energy in operating tubewells and in providing electricity to these new towns and villages for which a sum of Rs. 500,000 has been provided in the Budget, Government have thought it advisable to supply this energy to West Punjab Government. I am constrained to remark that the policy of the Government in this respect is very defective. It is in the fitness of things that Government should make adequate arrangements for supplying water for irrigating the lands. There is no doubt about it that we are very late in undertaking such schemes, and we cannot keep pace in such matters with the other Provincial Governments. The experiment of the U. P. Government in this connection was crowned with success and they have installed thousands of tube-wells in villages. They have been making water supply available to zamindars through these tube-wells in the same way as they supply canal water to them. They have made complete arrangements for supplying water through these tube-wells for watering the lands. As a result of the installation of a large number of tube-wells in the villages, the U.P. Government have not only been able to bring more areas under sugarcane cultivation for meeting their own demands, but also in exporting a large quantity of sugar to other provinces in the country. This is not all. A Minister of the United Provinces Government has recently stated that their province would in due course of time not only be self-sufficient in producing Power Alcohol to be used in place of petrol for cars etc., but they would also be in a position to export a large quantity. I would request the hon. Minister to try this experiment here in this province and thus spread a network of tubewells in the province. If this



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is done, I am sure, it will go a long way to make up the deficiency of water which is being keenly felt by the zamindars. Then I have to point out with regret, Sir, that the Government has been under the impression that it is not necessary for it to do anything more than giving a little subsidy to the farmers, intending to instal tube-wells. Even this meagre subsidy has been sparingly given. So far as I think, not a single pie has so far been given for this purpose and I don't think any provision on this account has been made in the Budget. Sir, in the conditions in which our province is placed to-day, it is rather fond to expect that people would with a little subsidy be able to get tube-wells installed in their lands. In the case of refugees, who are to hold land on quasi-permanent basis and on whom it is not proposed to confer proprietary rights, this question does not arise at all. Among the rest of the agriculturists in this province, how many big landlords are there, who can afford the cost of thousands of tube wells? How is it, then, that the Government expects the people to improve yield from their lands? I would urge upon the Government, Sir, to take upon itself the entire responsibility of installing tube wells. The land of this province has such potentialities that if the Government sets about this work and carries it on in full earnestness, I am sure, we can become self sufficient in the matter of food in two years.

But, Sir, the pity is that our Government is in the habit of doing things in a strange way. It really does not give us any pleasure to criticise our Government, but I think I shall be an enemy, not a friend of my Government, if I were to keep quiet on a matter of such vital importance to the people of this province. Sometime back, the Central Government allotted a special quota of 4 thousand wagons of coal to our province. It is now learnt that our Government has so far been able to get only 146 wagons out of it. Keeping this state of affairs in view, I would be quite justified in believing that if our Government decides to take in hand the installation of tube-wells and places order for them in America, the material would continue to lie in New York for years on end, just as a transformer that they purchased, is rotting at Bombay and they have not been able to arrange for its transportation so far. Many other provinces are already ahead of us even in this matter. So it is time, Sir, that our Government gave this matter its fullest consideration. In 1946, in the United Punjab, the Government had devised a scheme to subsidize people needing money for sinking of percolation wells and a provision for Rs. 2 crores was made in the Budget for this purpose. Applications were invited from cultivators, intending to undertake sinking of percolation wells. As many as 40



thousand applications were received out of which people of my district, alone, submitted 4 thousand applications. But no action was taken afterwards. People are still waiting for the time when Government would arrange for the supply of bricks and cement to them. Sir, it gives me pain to see that while influential people have and are succeeding in getting supplies of building material for erecting cinema houses, poor agriculturists who are the backbone of the province are unable to get bricks for construction of wells of which the province stands in the greatest need to-day.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions for improvement of irrigation in the province. In my opinion '*bunds*' can play an important role in the irrigation scheme of our province. They can prove most useful in the districts of Gurgaon, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur, which are areas of heavy rainfall in summer. By constructing *bunds* at suitable places in these districts, it is possible to store an immense quantity of water which at present goes waste. Some of my hon. Friends are no doubt of the view that supply of canal water to West Punjab should be stopped and that this water should be utilized here, in our own province. I know if the hon. Home Minister were free to have his choice, he would certainly stop the supply of water to West Punjab. But he is helpless in this matter, owing to the Interdominion Agreement on this matter on which I have no desire to dwell. But, Sir, I again want to impress upon the Government that if they act a little wisely, yield of foodgrains of our province can be increased by thousands of maunds,

Although we have some perennial canals in our province there is considerable area which is irrigated by non-perennial canals which supply water for six months only. Now according to the present practice, water supply in the latter is stopped on the 15th October, every year. In my opinion, Sir, stoppage of water supply on this date, when the cultivator needs it most, is like playing a cruel joke on him. If the Government gives up this practice and agrees to supply whatever quantity of water is available, to these areas, catered by non-perennial canals, for another month i. e. up to the 15th of November, so that cultivators may be able to sow '*rabi*' crop, I am sure, Sir, our province would be able to increase its yields of foodgrains by lakhs of tons.

**Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is that water going waste at present ?

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I don't say that, but carelessness is there. No doubt, some year, supply of water is so small that it can be hardly sufficient for the perennial canals. But even when there is sufficient quantity of water available, supply is stopped in the case of

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the non-perennial canals. What I want to stress is that it is doing a great injustice to the farmers of these areas, if water is not supplied to them even when there is sufficient quantity of it in the rivers.

Sir, in February last, the Attache to the American Embassy wrote an article in the Statesman, which I think the hon. Minister must have read. In this article, the author had suggested that wind-mills could prove very useful in countries where sufficient electric energy or any other source of power was not available for obtaining water for irrigation purposes. He also wrote that this experiment had been carried on successfully in America, Holland and some other countries. Sir, in my opinion, this suggestion if acted upon, would prove very helpful in this province. Installation of a steel tower would not cost more than the sinking of a well. Even if the wind blows at a speed of six miles per hour, the wind-mill would continue to function. After the initial expenditure, one is not required to spend a single pie on it and the wind-mill would continue functioning for about 30 years. I am told that such wind-mills were operating in District Mianwali. I also learn that they are operating in Madras Presidency. In our province the need for water is most acute in the months of May and June, and it is exactly in these two months that strong hot winds blow here. So even if the steel tower of the windmill is not so big, it can work well here. In my opinion, this is the best and the cheapest method of taking out the maximum water out of the wells. Even in the province, in which sufficient electric energy and other facilities are not available, all land can be irrigated by installing wind-mills, only if the Government attaches due importance to this method. I would, therefore, request the hon. Home Minister to send an expert to Madras province to study the working of wind-mills.

Then, Sir, we have in our province three districts, namely, Ambala Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur which are sub-montane areas, having heavy rainfalls. But, unfortunately, there is a scarcity of water to irrigate the lands in spite of heavy rainfall. Our Government should concentrate its attention to remove this difficulty in order to afford irrigation facilities in this area. With this object in view the Government should undertake building of *bunds* in these three districts so as to make a reservoir of water to be utilised for irrigation purposes instead of letting it go waste. This scheme of constructing *bunds* to save water has already been put in execution in Madras and Mysore where it has proved remunerative and helpful for growing more food. These bunds can be constructed of clay instead of cement and stones. Besides, it will be observed that sometime irrigation by canals causes waterlogging

and that renders the land useless for all purposes. If the Government had made survey of land after the partition of the province it must have come to its knowledge that it was necessary to put up tube-wells in order to overcome the difficulty of waterlogging. If it is not done, the waterlogging may cover an area of 1,000 acres of land, and thus vast area of land may go waste. A provision was made in the Budget of last year for excavation of branches of distributaries for taking water to the fields for irrigation but the work could not be speeded up and that scheme has been again mentioned in the Budget for this year. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there is a great scope of growing high quality of cotton in our province, but we are not taking necessary measures in this behalf. Our province is predominantly an agricultural one and its prosperity mainly depends upon agricultural development. Our experts are very optimistic about the development of Agriculture in our province. But unfortunately our province is very backward in irrigational resources and if they are developed, I am sure that we shall soon be the granary of India again. This being the position, I fail to understand why our Government do not put additional spurt both in effort and expenditure towards developing the irrigational resources on which depends the future prosperity of this province. We should have full regard for the urgency of these productive schemes and thus lay money to the best advantage. In my opinion financial considerations should not stand in the way of development plans which may ultimately add to the wealth of this province. We have to give relief to the displaced persons affected by the high prices of food. Again, this is necessary for intensification of the grow more food campaign in order to make our province self-sufficient in the matter of essential requirements. This step is all the more necessary for the Government which is burdened with the great responsibility of rehabilitating refugees. I know the Government will come forward with the plea of gross inadequacy of the financial resources at their disposal to provide money for these productive schemes, but I would emphatically urge upon the Government the necessity of pressing their claim to the Central Government for releasing funds to an increasing extent for the development of irrigational resources. I am really pained to know that the Government have appropriated 48 crores of rupees for the construction of the new Capital. In my opinion the money spent in this direction will not benefit the province to a large extent. This plan could wait for some time more and we should have gone ahead with our development and beneficent schemes as hold out prospects of immediate productivity. We are confronted with a vital problem of securing plenty of food for every man and the real solution of it depends on the irrigation facilities to the agriculturists. I must ridicule the idea

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of frittering away money on such unproductive undertakings, but the Government should launch upon such schemes which would help in the production of food-grains thus enabling the province to wipe out food deficit for ever. If I were a Minister in the Cabinet, I would have asked the Ministers as well as the heads of departments to live in mud hutments so long as the economic conditions of masses did not improve.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** This is why these people do not invite you to the Government benches.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I know, I have no place there, but I am still their friend and would request them to extend all facilities to this province which it urgently requires for the amelioration of the condition of the people. I can say with confidence that the land in the East Punjab bears a notable feature of being highly productive. Nature is also bountiful to provide plenty of rain to this province. The average output of our land can favourably compare with that of the land in the West Punjab. In these circumstances, if we consider why the West Punjab is surplus in foodgrains, we shall find that it has irrigation facilities. But the situation in the East Punjab is of a different order. The greatest need of the time is, therefore, that the Government should concentrate its efforts on the development of irrigational resources in the East Punjab. If this is done, the beneficial results of the new situation will be immediately felt when the big foodgrain harvests will change the economy of our province. India will then not be haunted with the fear of food shortage. The Government should, therefore, put all unproductive schemes in a cold storage for the present and should determinedly embark upon beneficial scheme of agricultural development in our province. The implementation of this scheme may involve big expenditure which the Government of India should unhesitatingly advance to this province to make it self-sufficient in the matter of food products. If our Government take the drive and initiative in this direction, I think it will render signal service to this province. The East Punjab will then be able to hold its head high with other provinces, and will play a predominant role in removing the continued scarcity of food in the province. It will also be observed that the Government of India also propose to raise a loan to the extent of two hundred and fifty millions for purposes of financing agricultural development projects. I therefore think that those who say that there is little scope for stepping up the province's food-producing capacity, are sadly mistaken. I may point out that by tube-wells, production can be increased by at least six maunds per acre. One tube-well can be supposed



to irrigate atleast ten acres of land. If ten thousand tube-wells are sunk, the production will be increased by six hundred thousand maunds. I shall ask the Government to get at least three thousand tube-wells bored every year. Engineers tell us that we have surplus electric energy. The hon. Minister-in-Charge also informed us the other day that there is excess of electric energy in Amritsar and Ludhiana and that the public does not demand it. We are supplying nine thousand kilowatts of it to the West Punjab. Why should not this energy be used in working tube-wells? If even two thousand tube-wells are installed every year, we can make up the deficiency in food-grains. We should give up old views and should move with the changing times. The world has made great progress. While at one time one could travel from one place to another by bullock-carts only, now we are living in an age of air-travel. We cannot solve any problem, unless we give up conservative ideas. I am sure that our province has the best engineers and the most capable agricultural experts in India. No other province has made as much progress in working the co-operative system, as we have made. We have the required talent in our province but no use is being made of it. I shall request the Government to make use of the available talent in preparing schemes for developing our province. Those schemes should then be put into practice. If the Government fulfils this need of the province, it will be praised by the posterity and it will have made a land-mark in history of the province. I hope that our Government will carefully consider this matter and will successfully accomplish it.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** [Kangra South, General Rural (*Hindustani*)]:  
I wish to commence my speech with the quotation—

Water water everywhere  
Not a drop to drink.

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal spoke about a district, in which there is shortage of water because there are no canals. I wish to draw your attention to the state of that district, where there are rivers, streams (chos), lakes, pools and also plenty of rainfall, but the fields do not get the necessary supply of water for irrigating them. This is the case with Kangra district. As regards rainfall this district has the second place in India. Perhaps the largest number of canals have been taken out from this district, but it is devoid of its own irrigation needs. The former Government was mostly to blame for it but the present Government too cannot be absolved of its responsibility. Whenever the officers of Irrigation Department have visited Kangra, they have gone there with a view to find means of diverting the water available there for use

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in other parts of the province. They have been preparing schemes for erecting dams and producing energy which may do good to the province but the needs of Kangra itself have never been kept in view. I have no objection to the maximum use being made of the natural resources of my district, but I request that something should be done to meet its own need in respect of irrigation. There are many waterfalls, rivers, ponds (khuds) and perennial streams (chos) in this district and if proper arrangements are made, its irrigation needs can be fully met. At present only two Tehsils are being irrigated. In these also, it is not the Government which has spent any money, but the zamindars have erected small dams to irrigate their fields. Water charges in this district are maximum, ranging from thirty-five to forty per cent. The Government should get its water-charges but should also look to the construction and maintenance of canals.

Now, Sir, I wish to make a few concrete suggestions. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh spoke highly of our officers. But in this connections, I am reminded of a verse—

सुना है तारे हैं तुम ने लाखों  
हमें भी तारो तो हम भी जानें।  
सुना है तारे हैं तुम ने लाखों  
हमें भी तारो तो हम भी जानें।

which means that they have achieved great deeds, but I shall know it when something is done for our benefit. The first suggestion, which I wish to make is that Kangra district should be fully surveyed by experts. Means of irrigation should be devised, wherever it is possible to do so with a small amount of expenditure. Kulu sub-division was surveyed but no use was made of the results of that survey. The floods of 1947 did great damage in this area and I would suggest that the beds of streamlets (*Kools*) should be made pucca.

The second thing, which I wish to point out is that there are a number of perennial streams whose water level is lower than the surrounding area. Water of such streams should be raised with the help of hydraulic rams, so that the surrounding area may be irrigated.

The third thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that a number of streams are surrounded by rocks. If dams are constructed, the water of these streams can irrigate the area.



The fourth thing to which I wish to refer is the construction of tube-wells. There are some parts of Kangra where these cannot be bored, but in a few Tehsils, for example in Nurpur, these can prove very useful.

The fifth suggestion I wish to make is with regard to the utility of wind-mills. These can be easily constructed in Kangra. In his bungalow in our district, the Nawab of Bahawalpur had set up a wind-mill, with the help of which he made use of water.

Sir, in my district an area of about four lakh acres of land is lying waste which if reclaimed and properly irrigated can be put under the plough by our poor tenants and landless cultivators. Such a step on the part of Government will not only bring some relief to a number of poor men of the Province who will get lands but may be helpful in removing to a very appreciable extent the food deficit in the Province. I have no mind to take any more time of the House and would only request the hon. Minister in Charge of irrigation that he should please send some experts to my district to make a general survey.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We have already taken a decision to survey the ilaqa.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** But I have my fears about the promises of hon. Ministers.

ਹੁਹ ਵਾਦਾ ਹੀ ਭਿਆ ਜੋ ਵਫ਼ਾ ਹੋ ਜਾਏ

वह वादा ही क्या जो वफ़ा हो जाये।

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I say we have taken a decision to survey the ilaqa, but if it does not satisfy the hon. Member, I can't help.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** I thank the hon. Minister for that.

**Sardar Ajit Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) (Punjabi) :** Sir, ever since the year 1925-26 when the Bhakra Dam Scheme came into being we have been telling the Government that the supply of water in our wells in Doaba had decreased and some steps should be taken to improve it. We have been all along told that with the completion of the Bhakra Scheme adequate supply of water would be made available to us. But to our utter surprise we now learn that as the previous Governments used to patronize the West Punjab this Government wishes to allot the whole quantity of water to Haryana Prant at the cost of districts like Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ambala etc. This is some thing most disconcerting. The interests of the Doaba inhabitants have always been sacrificed for others. With the construction of the Sirhind canal water in our wells went deeper

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and deeper and now God forbid, if the Bhakra Dam broke it would do incalculable harm to the districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. We have absolutely no prospects of any gains. I would therefore request the hon. Minister-in-Charge, who comes from my ilaqa, that he must give us some share from the supply of Bhakra so that we people who come from the West Punjab where we had abundance of water may be helped to some extent. Anyhow I further suggest that in case any large quantities of water can't be made available for us from this source, we should be given plenty of electric energy to enable us to sink and work a large number of tube wells in districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur.

Sir, I know that Government is inclined to favour the Hariana Prant but it should not be at the expense of other parts of the province. We the residents of the Doaba should not be altogether ignored. I somehow trust that the Minister-in-Charge of irrigation will keep the interests of the people of his ilaqa in mind.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh** (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by going into the question of distribution of water from Bhakra at this stage. This discussion can very easily be postponed till the time of completion of the scheme. When the Dam is ready we can then decide whether water should be supplied to Hariana Prant or some other districts of the province. At present I wish to invite the attention of the Government to a few things other than this scheme. I ask the Government, why should we not make use of the Jogindar Nagar energy which we have in such a great abundance for setting up tube wells in the province? Tube wells can render very useful service in the whole of Jullundur and greater parts of Ludhiana and Gurdaspur districts. The system of irrigation which at present prevails in these districts should be discouraged and discontinued. I have myself seen and hon. Members must also be aware that here the small zamindars employ bullocks for irrigation purposes. The result is that all the fodder, which as a matter of fact should be used for cows and buffaloes, is consumed by bullocks.

Sir, it is on the lips of everybody here as well as in the Centre that Bhakra will be supplying water to Jullundur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, that is all places beyond Ambala. It is absolutely wrong to think so. Bhakra can only supply water to Hissar and Ferozepore. It may also help Jullundur a little indirectly by raising the water level in the wells. It cannot serve any other part of the province. Therefore, the Government should embark on a regular campaign of setting up

tube-wells in the province. If it is not possible for the Government to undertake such a colossal programme itself, it can be done through the agency of the co-operative societies. And so far as finances are concerned loans can be raised in case of need. Such a step will add a good deal to the coffers of the Government and greatly help the refugees who haven't got the means to buy the accessories of Persian wheels etc. for purposes of irrigating their land. I repeat that we should have no misunderstanding about Bhakra and should immediately commence our work of sinking tube wells. We should take a tip, as my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh says, from the U. P. which produces large quantities of sugarcane and food-grains by the help of tube wells. Then, in spite of the fact that the Jullundur Division has got enough electric energy, no tube-wells are being sunk even there. It appears that the Government has no programme for this purpose, because there is no such provision in the Budget. The hon. Ministers can give lectures, no doubt, but when asked about their programmes regarding tube-wells etc., they have nothing definite to tell. If such steps are not taken by the Government, we cannot succeed in improving the lot of our province.

Next I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the district of Gurgaon. There was a scheme for this district, in the United Punjab. But now, in the time of our own Government, there is no such programme. It is perhaps due to its language, on the basis of which it is sought to be excluded from the East Punjab, by certain people. This district, at present, is being neglected by the Government. As I mentioned above, there was a scheme for the irrigation of this district. But our own Government has shelved that scheme and is, therefore, worse than the previous Government in this respect, for the people of that District. It is not enough to say that the Budget does not permit or that Bhakra Dam Scheme is there for the irrigation of all these districts. Something definite should, however, be done to give them immediate benefit. Similar is the case with regard to the Kangra district. The hon. Ministers go there to eat apples of Kulu. But there is no programme of lift system for the raising of the water level which is urgently required there.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I would like to point out that I have never been to Kulu personally. The hon. Member himself once brought apples from Kulu for me.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has drawn the attention of the Government towards the water in this district. Then there is the case of Jhajhar Tehsil which has the honour to have produced the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram who was mostly responsible for

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the acceptance of the Bhakra Dam scheme by the Government. But now there is no mention of this Tehsil in the plans of the Bhakra Dam Scheme.

There is another fact which I would like to place before the House. We arranged a huge conference at Rohtak, which was attended by thousands of people. But our own hon. Minister went there and told the people who had gathered there to go home and he would look after their demand for canal water. He further told them that they should depend upon the Government and should not listen to the empty propaganda which we were carrying on for our own membership in the coming elections. Thus the conference proved a failure on account of the intervention of our own hon. Minister. If he himself does such things, how can we complain against others.

Next Sir, I want to make a few submissions regarding drainage in our ilaqa. In the districts of Ambala, Karnal and especially in the Tehsils like Sonapat and Rohana, even a small rain causes floods in the streams. As a result of these floods, the Kharif crops are ruined. During the previous regime, the English officers used to tour the area on horse-back and inquired about the difficulties of the people. But now our own Ministers and officers ride only on Cheverolet and Buick cars, which cannot cross the flooded streams and streamlets. The Deputy Commissioners are urban people and as such they do not bother about rural population. The public is tired of these officers. The colleges are opened in the cities, other amenities of life are provided to the urbanites. But nobody pays any attention to the rural public, even when they are themselves prepared to pay. There is a stream, a tributary of the Jamuna, passing through the Panipat tehsil which, when flooded, washes away hundreds of villages every year. We have sent representatives and memorandum to the Government requesting it to do something in the matter. But so far nothing has been done. Similar is the case with regard to Sonapat. During the days of flood, miles and miles of land is sub-murged under water. When the crops of the farmers are spoiled they say that this free Government of ours has not even as much sympathy with them as the British had. The Government should pay attention to their hard lot by making some arrangements for the proper drainage of flood water. It can be carried forward to other areas which require it. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should direct the Chief Engineer to tour these areas.

There is a village named Kheri in my ilaqa whose Kharif crops are every year ruined on account of the floods and sometimes they cannot sow even their Rabbi crops. The hon. Ministers and the big officers pay

visits only to big cities like Delhi and Amritsar, but they never think of visiting the villages. They visit a village only when some fine of five or ten thousand is to be imposed on it. Otherwise the people of the villages are left to themselves. The hon. Ministers go straight to Delhi and from there to Amritsar, without stopping in the way.

Apart from this ruination of crops, the people are also put to a great hardship on account of these floods in the streams. The young girls and boys have to cross these streams quite naked. They cannot help to avoid this disgrace. If such a thing were to happen in any city, the public would raise hue and cry and the Government would at once look into the matter. But who cares for the honour or dishonour of the villages? One of the hon. Ministers belongs to the district where there is scarcity of water and another to the district in which there are no streams. How can they realise our difficulties? It has been said that the Government is short of funds. But I would like to submit that the people are themselves prepared to pay. What is required on the part of the Government is that it should take initiative, and the public will be grateful even for that. All this difficulty is due to the absence of bridges and proper drainage. The Government should also take in hand the work of land survey for the purpose of sinking tube-wells. I know that our Government has not sufficient means to meet all these expenses. But I assure them that money for these purposes can be collected from the people themselves with the help of co-operative societies. What is required on the part of the Government is a little sympathy for the people. With these words I conclude my speech.

**Sardar Udham Singh** (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to bring one or two matters to the notice of the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue. Whenever the village people hear anything new about canals they get pleased. When officers of the Canal Department explain new schemes and laws made by the Government in the villages people listen to them attentively with new hopes. In the Canal Manual it is stated that a canal is not a commercial undertaking from which profit is to be drawn. Nature has blessed us with plenty of water. It is for us to see that it is distributed on an equitable basis. I wish to submit that I am proud of the part played by Amritsar District in the fight for Independence. But I regret that a grave injustice has been done to this district under the new settlement. According to the settlement of 1911-12 there were three types of land—Chahi, Chahi-Nehri and Nehri. In 1929 another settlement was proposed. The people opposed it. Promises were held out that there would be no increase in revenue but the conditions were such that the Settlement Officer, Mr. Mcfarquhar, in order to ruin the farmers of the district, introduced



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a new method of settlement. The people of the Chahi-Nehri type of area, where both Chahi and canal waters were allowed, were asked to have only one type of irrigation. Moreover, the quantity of water to the District has been gradually reduced. Whereas it was 98 per cent at first, it was later on reduced to 66 per cent, and at present it is only 33 per cent. According to the scheme of the remodelling of Moghas, their size was reduced. But during the disturbances that took place after partition some persons increased the size of their Moghas of their own accord. But those people who could not have the courage to resort to this wrongful method are still pulling on with small Moghas and they are suffering on that account. I think Government should let these people also have big Moghas so that they may have plenty of water. People have received notices from the Department to the effect that they should tell whether they want their lands to be recorded as Chahi or as Nehri. In my opinion Nehri and Chahi areas should not be separated. What objection should the Government have if people want to supplement the meagre supply of canal water by means of their wells. I would strongly urge upon the Government to let the farmers have the same position which they had before remodelling. I have been a member of the Remodelling Committee and I have a sad experience of the officers working in the Canal Department. They never tell anything clearly. I have not been able to understand their records. There appears to be no reason why we may find it necessary to reduce the supply of water. I am of the opinion that whole of the water of Upper Bari Doab Canal should be supplied to the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and those areas of Lahore district which are in East Punjab. Earlier there was the question of giving water to other areas also. But now partition has solved this difficulty. So why not give more water to these districts now. Tube-wells may be sunk to supplement canal water. The present system is defective. It should be put an end to. People in our district have very small plots of land so they resort to the method of having two crops a year. Thus although they have to pay double water charges they get less water for their crops. So I would request the hon. Minister to stop Chakbandi. The system that existed before should be re-started. *(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).*

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern towns, General, Urban) *(Hindustani)*: Sir, the matter now before the House is of great importance. Before me some hon. Members have already expressed their views on irrigation and so they have made my task easier. I wish to speak on the Bhakra Dam project. The life and prosperity of East Punjab depend on schemes of Irrigation.

The hon. Minister for Finance pointed out the other day that if the



deficit of rupees five crores is not made up somehow or the other the Province could not hope to stand on its own legs. Its finances will remain on an unsound footing. This deficit can be made up only by a sound system of Irrigation which will lead to more production and consequent increase in the wealth of the Province. Those who participated in today's discussions laid stress on windmills, wells, system of irrigation by streamlets etc. But in my opinion, these minor schemes cannot be of any substantial help to us in the matter of meeting the deficit of rupees five crores.

The hon. Finance Minister has in the course of his Budget speech said :

Our hopes are centred mainly round the Bhakra and Nangal projects which when completed would bring an additional revenue to the Provincial Exchequer, by providing water supply and electricity to the areas neglected in the past but augment an all round prosperity of the province.....

It is crystal clear from this that the prosperity of our province depends upon Irrigation Department which has put into operation these schemes particularly the Bhakra and the Nangal projects.

Further the hon. Minister has said that from irrigation point of view the canals in West Punjab were better than the canals left in this province. I wish to quote a few lines from the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister who has said :-

The existing canals in East Punjab are not so paying as were the canals situated in the areas now falling in the West Punjab and this accounts for the fact that while working expenses, interest charges and other miscellaneous revenue expenditure in the joint Punjab were 62.2 per cent of the gross estimated Irrigation Revenue for 1947-48, this figure according to the budgeted figures for 1949-50 stands at 98.6 per cent in East Punjab.....

It is clear from this that whatever income accrues from the canals is spent on its maintenance. Keeping all these facts in view, hon.

- Members can judge for themselves that the department, which is under the discussion of the House, has lost all its efficiency. So far as the working of this department is concerned, the hon. Finance Minister has pointed out in his speech, as already referred to by me, that our hopes are centered mainly round the Bhakra and the Nangal projects. Some mention has been made about certain irrigation schemes and I am of the opinion that all the schemes except of course the Bhakra Dam Scheme are not productive in the least.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Sir, I would like to have your ruling on the point that when a Government measure is being discussed,

[Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish]

can all the Ministers absent themselves. I feel that not a single Minister is present in the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Speaker can't force a Minister to be present.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Speaker of the Central Assembly has laid stress on the point that the Ministers should be present in the House when an item concerning them was being discussed and that if it was not possible for the concerned Minister to be present, he should be represented by some other Minister. I think, Sir, that it is just possible that the Minister in-charge may not be present due to some urgent business, but at the same time he could have been represented here by some other hon. Minister and last but not the least the absence of all the Ministers is an insult to this august House. Sir, I cannot help saying that when a measure regarding their salaries or allowances is discussed in the House, they not only show their appearances but also urge upon the hon. Members to support them. But when any other measure is being discussed, all of them absent themselves.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please proceed with your speech.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Sir, I would like your ruling on this subject. There is no Minister in his seat. Can we proceed in their absence ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** We can proceed.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Are we in quorum ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I doubt if we are in quorum.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member to proceed with his speech.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir I wish to submit that so far as the Irrigation Department is concerned, it has not done any substantial work. The efficiency of this department is at its lowest ebb. Its sources of revenue are few and far between. So far as the work of the Department for which the demand, now before the House, has been made, is concerned, I am constrained to remark that corruption which is generally rampant in almost all the departments is the order of the day in this department. Like the Railway employees from the highest to the lowest ranks, the members of the staff of this department do not hesitate to distribute the share of the illegal gratifications among themselves. I am constrained to remark that this department has earned a very bad name on account

of the corrupt practices resorted to by their own staff. It will not be out of place to mention here that since the achievement of freedom this department has not done anything worth the name. This is not all. Penalties which are imposed upon poor zamindars for misusing the water of the canals are imposed even on unjustifiable grounds. They are harassed mercilessly by the officials. Poor zamindars are put to various inconveniences and scant attention is paid towards them by the Government. These corrupt officials have not changed. Since the Establishment of the Irrigation Department is under discussion, I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister that in spite of the popular Government, corruption continues to be the order of the day in this department. Our Government is treating the zamindars in the same old bureaucratic manner. In fact our Government do not hesitate to employ old methods of harassing and teasing the poor people without any rhyme or reason.

Further I wish to submit that this department has not done anything substantial. The policy of delay and drift followed by the Government is quite clear from the reply given to the question raised by my hon. friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh. In spite of the repeated requests by the people to the effect that they were prepared to incur the expenses in connection with the construction of a certain bridge, Government did not take any prompt action. I am really constrained to remark that this department failed to take any prompt action even in such a case where the people had offered to share financial responsibility in connection with the construction of a bridge. I am of the opinion that this is all due to the bad administration and carelessness of the Government in general and the department in particular.

A large quantity of water which could otherwise have been used for irrigation purposes, is being wasted in sewers and drains. On the other hand we find that we do not have sufficient quantity of water for irrigation purposes. So far as the Bhakra Dam scheme is concerned, I wish to submit that the name of the Bhakra Dam and that of Haryana Prant are closely interlinked with each other, and this is based on some historical facts. Instances in this connection are not wanting. During the 1st Great War, when the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab visited these areas, the people approached him for making water available to them for irrigation purposes. On hearing their demands, he promised them that the Bhakra Dam Project would surely enrich the resources of the Haryana Prant provided they supported the then Government. The history of the last quarter of the century will bear me out to the effect that this Dam was proposed to be constructed with the main purpose of

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supplying water through its canals to irrigate the districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon which depended mostly on rain. If I remember aright, Sir, you will also bear me out when I say that in the meetings of the old Legislative Assembly of which you had the honour to be one of its members, at the time when the demand of Irrigation was discussed, there was hardly any speech in which the then Government was not urged upon to complete the construction of the Bhakra Dam with a view to making water available for irrigating these areas. It will not be out of place to mention here that the late Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, both as a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and later on as the Revenue Minister of the then Government continued laying stress on the point that the Bhakra Dam when completed would benefit the province in general and the areas of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon in particular. In fact he held this view that the prosperity of the province in general and the Haryana Prant in particular depended upon the completion of the Bhakra Dam Project. It will not be out of place to mention here that elections were fought on this very issue. The people of these areas had centred all their hopes round this Project and were thus anxiously awaiting its completion. But unfortunately the then Government did not pay any attention towards it as there was a clear majority of those members in the Punjab Legislative Assembly who were mainly concerned with their constituencies in the West Punjab. It was through the effort of the late Sir Chhotu Ram that an inundation canal was constructed. Now it is the intention of the Government to have a perennial canal to regulate the water-supply for irrigating those areas in our province where its scarcity is keenly felt.

After the war, the Government of India sanctioned some grants for post-war schemes. Our Government also began to realise the urgency of the problem of supplying water to agriculturists of Haryana Prant. Blue prints and maps were got prepared. Books and pamphlets were published and distributed among the people. They were told that all preparations had been made and soon the Bhakra Canal would be supplying water to them. But all this proved to be a hoax. The partition came and the Punjab was divided into two parts. Unfortunately, the area which had been anxiously awaiting the opening of canals for the last quarter of a century, came to our share. Even then we did not give up all hope. We thought steps would certainly be taken to implement the Bhakra scheme since the era of freedom had set in. But, Sir, you are aware of the fact that whenever we ask any questions about any scheme or plan with regard to the Bhakra project, the replies

are given in an evasive and equivocal manner, from which no inference can be drawn. Whenever any information is sought, indefinite and non-committal replies are given. When we ask whether a certain area would get water from Bhakra Canal, no definite statement is made. Sir, so far as the northern and central parts of this province are concerned, they are already getting some water from canals. Nature is also bountiful there and the rainfall is quite good. But the districts of Haryana viz., Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon, are really in bad need of water. There are very vast areas of arid land in my ilaqa but water for irrigation is not available. Leaving aside historical matters, and promises unfulfilled, and hopes frustrated, in my opinion, even on grounds of merit, Haryana has the first and foremost right to the water that will be available from the Bhakra Canal System. There are vast tracts of good land lying uncultivated for want of water. I am sure, Sir, given the necessary water, these tracts can be converted into green and smiling fields.

I think the hon. Minister-in-Charge has visited Haryana a number of times but I am sure he does not have an intimate knowledge of this tract. No one can correctly appraise the qualities and potentialities of the land unless he is born and brought up there. It is not unnatural that the hon. Ministers' gaze should remain confined to the place of his birth and the surrounding areas.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** This is absolutely incorrect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But, Sir, this House has to keep in view the conditions prevailing all over the province and it is the right place where we can plead the cause of our ilaqa. Sir, even after the attainment of freedom, we are not sure of the fate of Bhakra scheme. Under the post-war schemes, maps were prepared from which it was, at least, clear how water from Bhakra canal, would be distributed. At that time we had some satisfaction that Haryana Prant would not be neglected, because the Minister-in-Charge of irrigation belonged to Haryana. Now things have changed entirely. The people of Haryana have given up all hopes of getting justice and fair play. They have begun to doubt whether the Government would fulfil the promises that have been held out to them for so many years, when the Bhakra project is complete. The people of Haryana are always very eager to know what their representatives say in this House or what questions they ask about the Bhakra Scheme and what replies are given by the Government. They are also anxious to know what the Ministers say, at the time of the voting of demand for irrigation, about the Bhakra scheme, because round this scheme revolves the question of their life and death. Sir, these people are right



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in thinking that their future is intimately linked with the Bhakra Scheme. And, Sir, if we look at the matter dispassionately and think over it seriously, we shall realise that in fact the future of the whole of this province is linked with this scheme. The deficit of 5 crores in the Budget will not be made good by some magic or miracle. The province will become prosperous only after the Bhakra scheme is complete. So it is very necessary that this project should be completed as early as possible.

Sir, if by the opening of canals barren lands of Sind and Bikaner have become transformed into green fields and places where even a blade of grass would not grow, have become mandis of foodgrains would not Haryana where land is much better, by canal irrigation, become the granary of India and would not East Punjab become a surplus province? Sir, to-day our province is in sore straits, for it cannot produce enough food for itself. Before the partition, we were at least confident that we would never have shortage of food in our province. On the other hand we were supplying food to other provinces. My learned Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has, in his speech, made many useful suggestions for improving the yield from land such as use of manure or artificial fertilizers, reclamation of water logged land, installation of tube-wells and wind-mills etc. I admit, Sir, that these are good suggestions for improvement of agriculture, but I feel all these pale into insignificance before that master scheme, I mean the Bhakra Dam Project. East Punjab nay even India cannot be saved from starvation except by spreading a net work of canals in this province as rapidly as possible. It is only then that we shall be able to produce food, enough and to spare. There is no other way in which we can save ourselves and the rest of India.

Sir, the greatest difficulty in our way has been removed, since the Government of India has expressed its willingness to give us a loan of Rs. 60 to 70 crores for the Bhakra Scheme. We had apprehensions lest they should refuse but now the way is clear. Sometime back, the Prime Minister of India, while addressing a gathering in a village in district Rohtak, was pleased to state that the Government of India was taking full interest in this scheme and that it was their earnest desire that the people of Haryana should get water, as early as possible, from the Bhakra Canal. Sir, what I mean to say is, that the sympathy and the help that the Central Government ought to have given, is certainly forthcoming according to the expectations of our Government. About two weeks back, Shri N. V. Gadgil while speaking in a public meeting at Jhajjar



in district Rohtak, which needs canal water most, stated that if even after getting the necessary funds by way of loan, it was found that the East Punjab Government was not carrying on the work properly, the Government of India would be compelled to take the construction of this project directly in their own hands. Sir, I really do not feel any pride in repeating this thing in this House. What Mr. Gadgil said in his speech was indirectly a sad reflection on our Government, and it gave us no pleasure to hear him say that if our Government did not carry on the work properly, the Government of India would be compelled to take it in their own hands.

Sir, the way in which the work is progressing, has left a little scope for me to think that the Bhakra Dam waters will ever be utilised in the Rohtak District. I gave notice of many questions in the last session of the Assembly about the Bhakra Dam Project and also wrote many letters to Engineers on this subject. But so far as the Government replies to my questions are concerned, they have always contained assurances about the implementation of this scheme. But from my past experience I can say that the Government can safely back out from its promises. In the beginning it was considered that the water of Bhakra Dam may not necessarily irrigate Haryana Prant. I addressed a letter to the Premier and he gave a reply thereof in an equivocal way that the Government have full sympathy with the people of Haryana Prant and that their apprehensions were unfounded. The Engineers of the Government are generally in the habit of doing work properly and then the information supplied by them is always to the point. My hon. Friends Chaudhri Suraj Mal and Chaudhri Lahri Singh have remarked in their speeches how the Government proposed to distribute the water in the beginning. It is difficult to interpret the letters of the Ministers. But subsequently I received a letter dated the 27th July, 1948 from the Engineer which reads as follows :

The Bhakra Dam waters are proposed to be utilised in the Bist Doab and Hissar district as well as some areas of Patiala State. If there are any spare waters over and above the requirements of the East Punjab, they would be passed on to Bikaner.

So it would appear that there is some misunderstanding still in the mind of people that Bhakra Dam Project will irrigate the Haryana Prant as a whole. Those people had simply found hopes that this project will irrigate the area of Rohtak—the native place of the late Sir, Chhotu Ram, Gurgaon, Rewari and Karnal. I had a talk with the Minister and he revealed that the water of Bhakra Dam will be utilized in the area of Bist Doab, a part of Haryana Prant and a part of Tehsil Sirsa. If there

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is any spare water, it will fall in the inundated canals. When the hon. Premier went on tour to Rohtak and addressed a public meeting he held out assurances of supplying water to this backward areas but peoples' faith in the empty promises of the Government has almost been shaken. Sometimes back a conference was held at Rohtak to discuss the Bhakra Dam Project and it was presided over by Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, Government of India. There was a large gathering numbering about twenty thousands of people. The Government got perturbed as it knew that it was difficult to implement this scheme. The Government deputed a Minister other than the Minister for Revenue to attend that meeting. He made a speech there and I vividly recollect his one sentence in which he remarked that the Government will give water to the Haryana Prant in the same quantity as was fixed by the late Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. Sir Chhotu Ram did not raise this issue during his life time, and obviously the question of fixing up a water limit by him does not arise. And in the absence of any water limit suggested by him it is just possible that the water may not be supplied to this area at all. There is nothing to deny that the Government is earnestly trying to implement the scheme of Bhakra Dam Project and is hurrying up its completion. This has been borne out by the work which is in progress there. Sometime back a Minister prepared a scheme for developing the irrigational resources of our province. Some of the engineers thought that the Bhakra Dam Should irrigate the area of Bhawalpur. It is also possible that they might have thought of utilising its water in Patiala Union and Bikaner.

At first it used to be said that the dam would shortly be erected. We were told that the necessary material and engineers were being imported from America. Now it is being said that the previous estimates were not correct and that one and a half times longer dam is proposed to be erected. In order to avoid being criticised by the public for having done nothing for a considerably long time, our Government thought of telling people that one and a half times longer dam would be constructed. I fear that after six months we will be told that two and a half times longer dam would be constructed. Instead of adopting these tactics, the Government should plainly tell the people what they are going to do. Public should not be kept in the dark or misled by vague statements.

As regards Haryana Prant, the Zamindars and farmers of that area have been disappointed by the lack of interest evinced in the ilaqa not only by the Government or the Minister belonging to that ilaqa but also by the members representing them.

As regards Bhakra Project, I used to tell the inhabitants of my ilaqa, at the time of elections, that we could expect nothing from the former Government. Now, however, these people will have to be told as to what the Government has done to satisfy the legitimate needs of this backward area. I agree with my hon. Friend, Chaudhri Suraj Mal that if it were some other country, people would have made the functioning of Government impossible and would have refused to pay taxes. Bhakra Scheme should not be delayed any more and the Government should realize the necessity of completing it as early as possible. Maximum quantity of water should be supplied to Haryana Prant. If the Government does not propose to act in this matter, it should at least clarify its position. I know that the Government has already earned a bad name for itself but by treating Haryana Prant in this manner, it is cutting at its own roots.

**Pandit Jiwan Lal :** (South-West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties of Gurgaon district. At first, we were told that Bhakra Scheme would provide water to Gurgaon, but now it has been said that its benefit will not be extended to that ilaqa. Rewari, Gurgaon, Palwal, Nuh and Ferozepore Jhirka have to obtain water from a canal known as Agra canal, which takes its water from the Ganges and the Jamuna. This is a canal of the United Provinces and our Government has no control over it. We therefore can not get sufficient water at the proper time. The refugees who go to Gurgaon find it difficult to settle there because the land there is unirrigated and water supply is inadequate. If water were made available, the fertile land of this area could produce good crops. After telling us that Gurgaon would not be covered by Bhakra Scheme, the Government has undertaken another scheme, under which it is proposed to erect Badkhal Dam. In my opinion, the money which is being spent on this project is being wasted. The dam is proposed to be constructed in the Tehsil, which is at a distance of about four miles from my home. Instead of wasting money on this project, I shall request the Government to take up the work of taking out a canal at Okhla. A scheme in this connection was prepared by the Government but was later dropped. I request that it be re-considered. It will supply water to Gurgaon, Rewari, Nuh and Ferozepore Jhirka.

With respect to what is known as 'Agra canal,' from which we are getting water at present, I shall request that our Government should try to get more water from the United Provinces Government. We requested

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the canal authorities to provide us water by *Dal* or *Jhelar* but our request was turned down on the ground that sufficient water was not available.

We are faced with two more difficulties. In the first place the monkeys damage our crops and secondly the bridges are so far removed that a farmer has to walk for miles together to go to the other side of the canal. I wish to submit that the Government should try to remove these difficulties of the people of Gurgaon. If a canal is taken out from Okhla, the un-irrigated land of Gurgaon can yield very good crops.

Sir, to sum up I have placed two schemes which if we put through will prove greatly beneficial to District Gurgaon. The first scheme relates to the Agra canal which passes through Gurgaon. I am sure that if our Government can persuade the U. P. Government to supply more water in this canal, three Tehsils, that is, Balabgarh, Nuh and Ferozepur Jhirka would benefit by it. The second scheme is about the Okhla canal and I would urge the Government to pay due attention to it. With these words Sir, I hope that something would be done by the Government to satisfy the needs of my district.

**Chaudhri Sundar Lal :** (Karnal North, General, Rural) (Reserved Seat) (*Hindustani*) ; Sir, I hail from a place where there is no scarcity of water and am surprised when some of my hon. Friends appear to think that with the availability of canal water in their respective districts gardens and green fields will spring up in no time. On hearing their speeches I am reminded of a story which I relate for the benefit of the House.

One day a Maulvi delivered a sermon in some mosque that when a Muslim died he went straight to heaven when he got plenty of fruit and beautiful fairy-like women. An ignorant Muslim felt tempted and thought that he would perhaps get these things if he pretended to be dead. He stopped his breath and looked as if he was no more. His relatives took him to the grave yard and had just lowered him into the grave when they saw some houses on fire in the village. Leaving the supposed dead body unburied in the grave they all hastened to the village to extinguish the fire. Meanwhile two soldiers happened to pass by the grave and from their talk it appeared as if they wanted to know the way to the village. The fellow lying in the grave cried out that a man could tell them the way but he could not help as he was dead. On hearing this human voice they went to the grave and asked the man to help. He replied that he could not because he was dead. At this they pulled him out and gave him some kicks till he agreed to lead them.

The following day he heard the Maulvi giving the same sermon again, that is, that a Muslim after death went to heaven where he got fruit and beautiful women. He cried out that the Maulvi's information was absolutely incorrect as he had himself seen that a Muslim after death came across only two soldiers who gave nothing better than kicks.

This exactly is our position, water is not the remedy of all our ills. At times water instead of being useful is injurious. I tell the hon. Members that there is no scarcity of water in my district of Karnal but still there is little cultivation. Our trouble is that there are places where unnecessary water is proving harmful whereas there are others where water does not reach. I would, therefore, request the Government that it should take steps to supply water to Barani lands and also reclaim lands which are flooded with water. As I have very little time at my disposal I shall very briefly explain a scheme to overcome the difficulty of my district. This scheme will not involve any heavy expenditure and will greatly step up the Grow More Food Campaign of Government. As has already been pointed out in this House I say that the plan of sinking a large number of tube-wells will prove very advantageous for this purpose. By this process water will be forced down into the earth and the water logged lands would be reclaimed. But it may be argued that sufficient machinery and other material, for example coal etc. are not available for working tube-wells. Here I can suggest a way out of the difficulty. If Government takes a little trouble it can arrange to get electrical energy from the big water fall on the Bhutana Branch Canal. In addition to this there are other water falls which can help us generate energy for our tube-wells.

Sir, I would once again ask the Government that it should take some definite steps for the removal of water logging in our district. I am sure that this can very easily be done by sinking tube-wells and throwing water, if it is not needed, in the canal which passes through Tehsil Jhajjar. I hope that my proposal will be given consideration, by the Government, it deserves.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair)*

**Sardar Waryam Singh :** (Batala, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, through you I wish to bring a few facts relating to District Gurdaspur to the notice of the Cabinet. It is through this district that the Upper Bari Doab Canal, issuing from Madhopur passes, and renders thousands of acres unfruitful and useless. A very small quantity of water from this canal is utilized for areas here and that is hardly sufficient for one crop



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i. e. the Sawni Crop. Moreover, the Rajbahs or the drains are usually in such a bad condition that sometimes water does not reach the Moghas or the outlets at all. But if and when the authorities are approached with a complaint they always say that water has been supplied in accordance with the capacity or output of the Mogha. I know it for certain that even when the Mogha keeps absolutely dry the answer of the authorities is the same. This state of affairs makes us feel greatly upset. It is really a pity that when water is passing through our ilaqa we have no right over it. I most humbly request that sufficient water should be given to us from the canal, if not for two crops, at least for one i.e. the Sawni Crop. Even during the British Raj water was always supplied for one week in winter to save from frost the sugarcane which was kept as seed.

In spite of our approaching the Government officials a number of times, for the redress of this difficulty of the farmers, they have not been supplied canal water even for a week during winter, for the protection of their sugarcane crop. This is a grave injustice to them. I hope the Government will do the needful in this matter.

There is another fact to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. The persons appointed to keep watch on the canal minors, usually get undue gratification from the villagers at the time of every harvest. The villager who refuses to pay him this gratification, becomes a victim of his wrath. What he does is that, in spite of the repeated requests of the villagers to look to the weak parts of the canal banks, he pays no heed to them. After sometime the canal banks give way due to the leakage of water and the farmers are made to pay heavy fines. For instance, I would like to place before the House the case of village named Khokhar Wadh in Police Station Sri, Hargobindpur. The banks of the canal minor (*Rajbah*) near that village became very weak and the canal officials were informed of the fact. But nothing was done. After sometime the banks gave way and the people were made to pay a heavy fine for no fault of their own. I hope the Government will do something to remove this difficulty of the people.

The farmers pay water charges (*Abiana*) for the canal water, which is used by them. Besides they have to pay Chahi tax, if they grow their Crops by means of wells. They have also to pay another tax called Khush Hasiyat tax, i. e. prosperity tax. Now both these taxes, namely Chahi tax and Khush Hasiyat tax are unreasonable. When the farmers



pay for the canal water, they use, I can't understand why they should be made to pay these extra taxes. I, therefore, submit that both these taxes should be abolished.

Again, Sir, I would like to point out that the water level in my district is not very deep. If tube-wells are sunk there and are run by means of electric power, the production of foodgrains can be immensely increased. Moreover, the hydro-electric lines pass just through that area. All the land, between Batala and Dera Baba Nanak can thus be irrigated by means of tube-wells. If tube-wells are sunk also in the area known as Shahpur Kandi near the Ravi, the land there can become very productive. There is scarcity of even drinking water in that ilaqa and the Rajputs and Harijans are frequently engaged in conflicts, on that score. This problem can also be solved by the sinking of tube-wells.

There is one thing more to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. The Government set apart a sum last year for the sinking of wells. This sum was to be advanced to the farmers in the form of Taqavi loans. This sum was primarily meant for use in the villages. It was the duty of the Agriculture Department to supply bricks to the people. But actually this has not been done. Besides, the coal which was to be given for the baking of bricks for this purpose has been distributed in the towns. No coal has been supplied to the kilns at any place between Batala and Dera Baba Nanak, in which area the means of irrigation are very difficult as well as scarce. In the end, I hope that the Government will sympathetically consider these proposals of mine.

**Chaudhri Sher Singh :** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Hindustani*) :

Sir, I represent here the constituency which was once represented by the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. He used to tell people of this area in huge conferences about the Bhakra Dam Scheme and how this scheme would bring prosperity to them. He particularly mentioned four villages namely Dubbal, Dhan, Majra, Thith Malikpur, which he described as the home of famine. He used to say that he would be glad when these villages got water for irrigation of their lands and the Jhajjar Tehsil would become a prosperous area. But today when the Bhakra Dam Scheme is actually going to materialise we do not find the name of Jhajjar anywhere in its plans. As a result of that there prevails a feeling of discontentment among the people of my constituency. This scheme, in fact, was originally intended for the district of Haryana Prant in order to root out the possibility of famine in that area. The people, therefore, cannot be satisfied unless their areas are also given the irrigation facilities under the Bhakra Dam Scheme. I would like to submit, Sir, that there is a great agitation

[Chaudri Sher Singh]

over this issue among the people of Haryana Prant. As a matter of fact this scheme was brought forward in the name of Haryana Prant and this subject has been the cause of rise and fall of many a Ministry in the Province. Moreover, the Congress party has been giving promises to the people during its struggle for independence for 25 or 30 years, that in free India farmers would get all sorts of facilities. Time has now come for the Congress to redeem its pledges and promises. I, therefore, hope that our Government will not ignore the Haryana Prant now and it will, fulfil the promises that the previous Government and the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram held out to the people of that area. They can be satisfied only if they get canal water in sufficient quantity. Besides this step can go a long way in solving our food problem, which is so acute at this time. Millions of rupees are being spent on the import of foodgrains from outside and crores of rupees spent on supplying food to urban population on cheap rates. This money can be saved if irrigation facilities are extended to the Jhajjar Tahsil and such other areas. If the land of that area is properly irrigated, the production of food-grains can be immensely increased. In the end, I again submit that this area for which the Bhakra Dam Scheme was primarily intended must be given irrigation facilities. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Minister for Home and Revenue (Punjabi):** Sir, contrary to the general practice in the House, I have kept very little time for my reply, because I wanted to give more time to the hon. Members so that I may be in a position to know what they say about the demands of their respective ilaqas. Before dealing with these demands, some of which are contradictory, I must explain the post-partition developments in the field of irrigation. Of course, the people coming from West Punjab had to undergo untold sufferings. They had to leave their hearths and homes. If we look at partition from the point of view of irrigation also, the resources of East Punjab have been depleted to a large extent. Unfortunately before partition the policy of the Government of the United Punjab was such that the districts now comprising the Province of West Punjab were enriched at the cost of the other districts. Our revenues were spent for the benefit of West Punjab. A few days back I explained to this House how the electric power developed from Kangra and Kulu valleys at Jogindar Nagar was mainly utilised for the benefit of Western districts of United Punjab. Those districts are in fact getting lion's share of everything. Similar is the case with regard to the canals. Those in the previous regime who had been promising an early completion of Bhakra Dam were, in fact dodging us

while bestowing all favours on West Punjab. For the last quarter of a century they had nothing in hand but a paper scheme. Those who held the reins of Government were favourably inclined towards the West Punjab. For the last twenty five years or so while money was being spent on Headworks like those at *Daood Khel* on river Indus and West Punjab was developed at a rapid pace the people of East Punjab were held out empty promises and shown lip sympathy with paper schemes. Even in that a perusal of the papers show that the water of Sutlej was intended to be taken to Bhawalpur and other areas in West Punjab which was being enriched at the cost of East Punjab. It is a matter of great pleasure that the conspiracy to rob that water has not been allowed to materialise. Whatever the loss we had to suffer due to partition, we are happy to be able to say that the conspiracy to rob East Punjab further, has been failed. In United Punjab whenever any practical step for the completion of Bhakra Dam was proposed to be taken various claims from other directions were put forth. East Punjab was often told that Sind had also a right to the waters of the rivers. Those of my hon. Friends who are in the know of these things will bear me out. According to the new schemes, we have not encroached upon any rights of the province of the West Punjab. As a matter of fact we intend to do justice to East Punjab which has so long been denied to it by depriving it from its due share of the canal waters. This is the only right thing to be done.

Whereas the partition of the province, whose canal system was the best in the world, gave a share of twenty one per cent canals to the East Punjab, the population that migrated to this province was 45 per cent. After partition the unprecedented movements of population on both sides of the border caused damage to the Canals. Besides this last year the floods played havoc with them. There had never been such severe floods in the history of India in these parts. The hon. Members who belong to Gurdaspur know full well that as a result of these unusually severe inundations the Madhopur Headworks was damaged to such an extent that upper Bari Doab Canal had to remain closed for a considerable period. When I visited the place, it appeared as if the river had completely left the Headworks for ever and was flowing at some distance. With the help of Military and voluntary aid from villages the situation was brought under control.

The loss that Ferozepore suffered on account of these floods is known to all the hon. Members. The City of Ferozepore is situated in the proximity of the Headworks. If the dam had given way the city would

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have been engulfed in great danger. Such danger has never occurred to the city before. However, water rushed into the cantonment and caused damage, but fortunately the Headworks remained intact. Now with a view to warding off any future danger to the city, and particularly to the Headworks, a new seven miles long dam has been constructed for their protection at a cost of rupees twelve lakhs.

Besides, all the areas adjacent to Ferozepore would thus be saved from the damage caused by the floods. This is not all. The Tajewala Headworks wherefrom the Western Jamna Canals takeoff has been considerably damaged by the floods and a sum of about rupees seven lakhs had to be spent on making the necessary repairs. Similarly an unprecedented expenditure of rupees fifteen lakhs had to be incurred in connection with the Madhopur Headworks. With the Partition of the Province, most of the canals have been left in West Punjab and there are only a few canals in our province. The Headworks which were already in a very bad condition due to the movement of the people during the recent disturbances, were, as ill luck would have it, further damaged to a great extent by the floods. We had to spend lakhs of rupees in making necessary repairs to these Headworks. As I have already mentioned, we had also to incur a huge expenditure amounting to lakhs for saving the city and cantonment of Ferozepore from the floods in future. In fact it is very necessary to push on the work to avoid any further risk or damage to the city and the cantonment from floods. Keeping all these difficulties in view which the Irrigation Department was faced with immediately after the Partition, I wish to point out that it really ill-behoves my hon. Friends to say that this Department or the staff showed negligence in the discharge of its duties. I think my hon. Friends will be doing a great injustice to them if they hold such an opinion about them. However, let me bring this point home to them that we are very fortunate in having in our province the best canal engineers in the whole of our country—nay in the whole of the world. (*Hear, hear*). By making these remarks I do not mean to talk ill of other provinces. But at the same time, I cannot help saying that during the last 70 or 75 years, our engineers have gained a lot of experience and they have constructed a network of such canals which are neither found in any part of our country nor in any part of the world. They were helpless and as I have already stated they were faced with very difficult problems immediately after the Partition. Let me assure the hon. Members that we have developed the province, whatever has been possible so far, with the help of their technical advice. They are very



anxious to develop the province through their technical skill. In fact it is their earnest desire to serve their country in the true sense of the word. They want to develop, this post-partitioned province of East Punjab in the same way as they did the West Punjab. Such references have already been made more than once while discussing the schemes in connection with the development of our province in this House. We were faced with an acute problem of providing employment for the members of the non-Muslim staff which had to migrate to this province. Since a large number of canals were left in West Punjab, it was not possible to employ all the Members of the staff here in the Irrigation Department. We absorbed as many people as we could. It will not be out of place to mention here that we were under the impression that the West Punjab Government might require the services of most of the engineers with a view to taking some advantage of their experience and skill. But the conditions in West Punjab were such that it was difficult rather impossible for a Hindu or a Sikh to live there either in official or non-official capacity. Hence the burden of providing jobs to these displaced Government servants fell upon the East Punjab Government. It was not possible to provide them with employment anywhere during those days of chaos and confusion. Still I have no hesitation in saying that in spite of these handicaps we succeeded in securing employment for them in various departments of our Government and at other places in India through the help of the Central Government. My hon. Friends would be glad to know that so far almost all the gazetted staff which migrated from West Punjab into this province have already been absorbed. It was not possible to absorb the non-gazetted staff which consisted of as many as four thousand members, in the Irrigation Department alone. However, some of them have now been absorbed in the Irrigation Department, while most of them have been provided with employment in various departments of our Government and also of the Central Government. As a matter of fact about 98% of this displaced staff has already been absorbed.

Those of my hon. Friends who have criticized the work of this staff, should not be unmindful of the fact that the East Punjab Government will be benefitted to a great extent by the skill and capability of those engineers with whose experience and knowledge we can implement our development schemes successfully. Further I wish to submit that vehement criticisms have been advanced by certain hon. Members against the Development Schemes. I do not deny the fact that criticisms can be advanced against any development schemes. But what I wish to point out is that these schemes must be looked at from a practical point of view and they should be kept much above politics. We should probe into

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the pros and cons of these schemes without any political considerations and we should look at these schemes with this consideration only as to how our natural resources can be harnessed in the development schemes in the interests of the province. While keeping those difficulties in view which we were faced with due to the Partition, we should consider ourselves fortunate enough in having amongst us men of vast experience and technical skill who are working day and night with a view to serving their province.

I wish to make some observations regarding those schemes which are being worked out by the Irrigation Department for bringing prosperity to our province. Out of them, the two schemes, namely, the Bhakra and the Nangal, are the most important ones. In this connection I may point out that if my hon. Friends who have vehemently criticised these schemes, had instead of advancing criticism taken the trouble of visiting those places and had seen for themselves how the engineers and the labourers numbering thousands, were quietly working day in and day out with a view to completing the construction work, I am sure, 95% of such criticism would not have been made by them.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Have you extended any invitation to them ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Send them in batches.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, I accept your suggestion to take them in batches. We intend to take the hon. Members and the representatives of the press from time to time according to their convenience, to visit Bhakra and Nangal so that they may see for themselves how quickly work was being done there day and night.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** The previous Government extended an invitation to Members to see the works for themselves but you have not done any such thing.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Yes, I remember the occasion when M. L. As were taken in a special train to witness the opening ceremony of a Headworks in West Punjab. Sir, I am not in favour of extending invitation in a customary way to anyone at the time of opening ceremony of any Headworks. I think, Sir, it would be much better if instead of coming at the time of opening ceremony with garlands in their hands, the hon. Members now take the trouble of going to the sites of these Headworks and see them in the formative stage, so that they may



realize how unjustified sometimes their criticism is. If they see with their own eyes the work that is being done, I think instead of indulging in criticism, they would be inclined to divert their energies into Constructive channels.

Sir, we are prepared to obey your orders and, therefore, extend invitation to all the hon. Members to visit the sites of these projects and see for themselves how work is being carried on. We are also prepared to provide them all the necessary facilities. Shri N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, and some experts of the Central Government have already paid visits to the site of Bhakra and Nangal projects. It would not be out of place to mention that they were quite satisfied with the progress of the work.

Sir, the difficulty of getting loan from the International Monetary Bank, has been referred to in this House to-day. In this connection, I want to submit that of all the schemes on the basis of which the right of the Government of India to take loan from this Bank has been recognized, the Bhakra Scheme is at the top. (*Cheers*). We hope to get financial aid to the tune of Rs. 100 crores, for this scheme. Only a few days back, Sir, I had to absent myself for a day from this House in order to accompany the representatives of the Delegation of I. M. B. to the sites of these projects. I am glad to be able to say, Sir, that they were greatly impressed by the fact that work of such magnitude was being carried on with so little machinery and in such an efficient and rapid manner. They were really surprised that so much work had been accomplished mainly with the help of manual labour and were of the view that nowhere else had such work been undertaken without the help of sufficient machinery. Now I would briefly describe the work that has been finished and that which is in progress.

Sir, the greatest and most difficult task before us was the construction of the Headworks of the canal which is to be taken out of river Sutlej at Nangal. I am happy to be able to say that more than half of this stupendous work has already been accomplished. After controlling the bed of the river by erecting huge 'bunds', massive concrete structures, pillars, and gateways had to be constructed to check and store the waters of the river. More than half of this work has been done. Only yesterday, I received a telegram from the Superintending Engineer, informing me, that now the work of diverting the river to that side of the Headworks which has been completed, is being taken in hand. By 1952 the Headwork and the Power House would be completed and I think, it would be possible to supply electricity (*Cheers*).

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The work on the Headworks is being carried on in three shifts. The Engineers, Sub-Divisional Officers, Overseers, and all the staff and labour are working day and night in order to bring these projects to completion as early as possible. Some two or three weeks back, I went on a visit to Nangal. I would like to relate here what I was told by an Engineer. He told me that he and his colleague were really surprised at the manner in which the labour was working ever since they had been told that they were working for the advancement of their nation. He also told me that previously the labour used to make various kinds of complaints and some of them used to be in the habit of shirking their duty, but ever since they had been told this thing, their behaviour had become excellent.

I am, however, in a position to say, Sir that all the regular staff from low-paid overseer to the senior most Engineer, are working hard and whole-heartedly, so that these projects may be brought to a successful completion. Simultaneously with the work of construction of Headworks, the work of digging canals and distributaries which are to take the water to the thirsty lands is also being carried on at a rapid pace. Between Rupar and Nangal, the work of digging is nearing completion. This work is also in progress in the territory of Patiala State, through which water shall have to pass to reach the Hariana districts. In fact, Sir, all the work is being carried on in a systematic and synchronizing manner and according to a set programme. The hon. Members who have a little insight into geography must be knowing the nature of the tract of land between Nangal and Rupar, which had to be connected by rail and road, before anything else could be done. Construction of a railway line from Rupar to Nangal, a distance of 40 miles, was no easy task. We, too, had to spend a good deal on it, because according to the contract made with the Government of India, expenditure on all permanent structures was to be incurred by the East Punjab Government. So we had to spend on the construction of bridges over various nallahs. This railway line was completed, not very long ago. Along with this, our Public Works Department has by putting in best efforts, succeeded in building a road from Rupar to Nangal, though a number of bridges have still to be constructed. Last year when I visited Nangal in a Jeep, it took me four hours to reach there from Rupar. Now this journey can be covered in a car or staff wagon in about an hour and a half. Again, without the facilities afforded by railway, the task of building a Dam of concrete and cement to a height of 670 to 675 feet, would have been well-nigh impossible, for this is the height to which it has been finally

decided to build the Bhakra Dam. A huge tunnel had also to be constructed for the railway line and I am happy to say that it has been completed in a very short time.

Sir, to construct the Bhakra Dam Project, it is necessary to dry the portion of the river on which the Dam is to be constructed. After drying the water, bunds have to be built in order to divert the course of the water through the tunnels. This was a task which bristled with great difficulties. The tunnels have been completed and now we have to construct the buffers. Sir, these details I have mentioned because I consider it necessary in order to satisfy the hon. Members of this House, who are unfortunately labouring under a misapprehension that the work is not in progress. I may assure them that we are hurrying up the completion of this project and I hope that the Dam will be completed by the year 1956. Some of the hon. Members have criticised that the restricted supply of water of the Dam will irrigate a limited area, but I would request them to consider this problem rather soberly. I may assure the hon. Members that the best possible use of the water will be made and it will be utilised fully for the purpose of cultivation. The apprehensions of some hon. Members that Rohtak and Hissar will get a meagre share of water supply are merely unfounded and their speeches in this strain are only vote-catching speeches. Chaudhri Suraj Mal's Government of the old regime had merely given these people a paper scheme but the present Government promise to give them more water than that Government. They should dispel all such suspicions which they harbour in their mind. After the completion of the scheme they will realize how much water we are prepared to give to that area.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** As the Bhakra Dam Project is being originated from Hoshiarpur, may I know if it would be possible for the Government to supply electricity and irrigation facilities to this district especially when the whole ilaqa has been rendered useless on account of *Cho* ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, I have very little time at my disposal and I would therefore be able to describe briefly the salient points only. As a result of Bhakra Dam, Sutlej will remain dry for about 10 months a year and there will not be a single drop of water in it. We must make available Bhakra Dam water to the Bist Doab area where the water level may go still further low. At present the water level is about 50 or 60 feet deep, and it is feared that water may disappear altogether. So this has been done to ward off the danger, and to protect the land falling in this area. This scheme of providing water to Bist Doab area is not a new scheme but it

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was formulated by Mr. Khosla, Chief Engineer long ago. The Government have decided to provide water of the Dam to this area as the river will run dry and consequently we have to try that the sub soil water should exist. We shall make the best utilization of the water in order to achieve maximum production. There is a vast area of land in Ferozepore district where irrigation facilities are not available to the agriculturists. So it is proposed to make use of the water of Sutlej and Beas in order to supply water to this arid area. The time is short and I think it necessary to announce the policy of the Government that it is not the Government's intention to deprive any area, which was getting supply of water at the time of Partition of the province, of water even though notices have been issued regarding separation of *Chahi* and *Nehri* areas. I may assure the hon. Members that more water will be given to people through the Upper Bari Doab Canal. I know that there are apprehensions in the minds of people that less water will be given to this area on account of the agreement with the West Punjab. But there can be progressive decrease in the supply. We shall also make use of the seasonal supply of water from Upper Bari Doab for irrigation purposes. As the time at my disposal very short, I have not been able to give comprehensive details of the Drainage Scheme and the scheme of other projects which have been worked out. The scheme of tube wells is also ready. All these schemes have been worked out in consultation with the Government of India. By putting into operation all these schemes, we shall make the land of this province very rich in productivity and the East Punjab will witness agricultural prosperity in due course of time.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :-

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,71, 100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that, will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday the 29th March, 1949*

# East Punjab Legislative Assembly

## 3rd Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 29th MARCH, 1949.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE IN TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

\*968. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of motor vehicles now in use by the Transport Department;
- (b) the number of vehicles in use in implementation of Government's Policy of nationalization of transport;
- (c) the number of vehicles in use for the purpose other than referred to in part (b) above;
- (d) the number of vehicles which are lying idle at present together with reasons therefor?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) 50
- (b) 42
- (c) 8
- (d) 166 vehicles are standing outside Provincial Transport Controller's Office, Jullundur, out of the bulk purchases made through the Government of India. Out of this, some are shortly to be collected by other Government Departments and the rest will probably be utilised for running Government Transport Services,



**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** If the Government is yet undecided to nationalise the transport services, then may I know the reasons why have they kept these vehicles idle for such a long time ?

**Minister:** I don't agree with my hon. Friend on this question, that the vehicles have been standing idle for a considerable period. He should know that it requires a lot of time to build the bodies of the chasis. While explaining the position with regard to the nationalisation of transport services the other day I stated and still maintain that the decision whether we are going to embark on this scheme, has not yet been arrived at. If we do not nationalise, then we do not require so many buses.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** If the answer to question No. 987 is correct, then it is evident that the vehicles have been standing in Government yards for a long time. May I, therefore ask once again the reasons why these vehicles have been kept either without allotting to the public who wanted them or without putting them in Government use ?

**Minister:-** I have already replied to that question.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government approached the Government of India with the request that permission may be granted to them to sell these vehicles to the public ?

**Minister:** No.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that certain dealers of the East Punjab requested the Government of India that since these vehicles had been purchased direct without payment of any commission by the East Punjab Government, the latter may not be allowed to sell away these vehicles to the public ?

**Minister :** We cannot know anything about the correspondence that passed between the dealers and the Government of India.



**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the hon. Minister prepared either to put these vehicles, which are in danger of being spoiled, for public sale or return them to the firms from whom they were taken ?

**Mr. Speaker** This is a suggestion.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** May I know whether this Government intends to return the vehicles in question to the dealers concerned with the permission of the Government of India or sell them out to the Public to avoid any loss to the Provincial Exchequer ?

**Minister:** I have already explained the position while answering questions of this kind. But if my hon. Friend wants to know it again then I can say that we are not going to dispose them of unless Government takes any decision with regard to the nationalisation of transport.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the hon. Minister prepared to take the responsibility of putting these vehicles to Government use within the next four months or sell them out to the public ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a request for action.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** In view of the reply given by the Hon. Minister, I would like to know, when the Government has not decided about the nationalisation of transport services, then why was Government money locked up in the buses for such a long time and why this deterioration allowed of the vehicles for such a considerable period without embarking on the scheme of nationalisation ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Is it not an expression of opinion ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that on account of its having failed to make a right use of these vehicles, there is a great resentment prevailing in the public ?

**Minister :** I do not agree with the remark made by my hon. Friend. Neither any deterioration has set in the vehicles nor does

[ Minister ]  
any public resentment exist on this account.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the notes appearing on this subject in the Tribune of even date, have come to his notice ?

**Mr. Speaker :** No reference is to be made about newspapers.

#### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**\*969 Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for public works be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of motor vehicles of various types offered for sale to the public by the Transport Department in the year 1948-49;
- (b) the number actually bought by the public out of the vehicles so offered;
- (c) the book value of the vehicles sold and the price realised for them through sale referred to above;
- (d) whether it is a fact that prices realised through the sale are less than the book value of these vehicles; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) —do—
- (c) —do—

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know who was responsible for giving an advertisement in the newspapers about six months ago that Government buses would be on sale at Jullundur? May I also know whether that advertisement appeared with the permission of Government or not?

**Minister :** The question does not arise as no buses were offered for sale by us.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know whether that advertisement was allowed to appear without the prior sanction of the Government ?

**Minister :** When Government offered no vehicles for sale, where then lay the necessity of putting an advertisement for publication and according sanction for the purpose.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know why has the Government then kept these useless vehicles tied down ?

**Minister :** No, the vehicles are in excellent and 'Lachhedar' condition. (*Laughter*)

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether the word 'Lachhedar' is Parliamentary or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I expect that the use of such terms will be avoided in future by the hon. Members.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government has felt any necessity of setting aside any vehicles in which deterioration has set in?

**Minister :** No. However, I will make enquiries if the hon. Member gives notice.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know whether the departments under the hon. Minister do not consult him ?

**Minister :** Why not. The difficulty is that the hon. Member does not know the working of the departments.

#### CHO RECLAMATION COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

**\*957. Sardar Piara Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :

- (a) the result of the deliberations of the Cho Reclamation Committee appointed for the District of Hoshiarpur;
- (b) whether any report of the Committee has been submitted to the Government; if so, the chief recommendations thereof;
- (c) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in order to reclaim large tracts of sandy land in the Hoshiarpur District

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

(a) and (b) The Cho Reclamation Committee has submitted its report and the chief recommendations made by it are:—

- (i) Prohibition of cultivation of sloping fields.
- (ii) Prohibition of keeping goats for trade in Una tehsil and in the tract above Dasuya-Rupar Road in other Tehsils.
- (iii) Work of consolidation of holdings must start immediately in Hoshiarpur district.
- (iv) 20 bull-dozers to be purchased for terracing and cho-training works.
- (v) Land Tenancy Act to be modified to provide payment of share from forest produce to the tenants and make tenants eligible to become members of the Cho-Reclamation Co-operative Societies.
- (vi) To acquire temporarily 50 feet wide strip on both banks of the Chos to canalise Chos and stabilise their banks.
- (vii) Hill area owned by Muslim evacuees should not be re-allotted to refugees but it should be declared as Government Reserved Forests.
- (viii) Closures and other afforestation and soil conservation works to be continued by the Forest Department.

(c) The recommendations are under consideration.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** • Is it a fact that all the efforts of the Government for overcoming the Cho difficulty have proved unsuccessful?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is it a fact that Cho problem continues in spite of the efforts of the Government. What steps have been taken to solve it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As I have already stated, a committee was appointed and its report is under the consideration of Government.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Does cho problem continue because of the inefficiency of the Government officers. May I know if there was any expert on that Committee?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The hon. Member was a member of that committee but he never attended any of its meetings.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** I was not a member of that Committee.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I remind the hon. Member that all the M.L.As. of Hoshiarpur district were its members.

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ENQUIRY INTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT  
NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, BURIA

**\*964. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that certain complaints against the President, Notified Area Committee, Buria, District Ambala were referred for investigation to the Revenue Assistant, District Ambala for enquiry ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these complaints were subsequently withdrawn by the Government before the investigations were completed by the Revenue Assistant concerned;
- (c) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for withholding the enquiry ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) Yes,

[Parliamentary Secretary]

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the matter still under enquiry ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, it has not been withdrawn ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** At what stage is the enquiry.

Has the Government received any report ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Enquiry is proceeding. No report has so far been received.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When was this complaint made ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When was the enquiry instituted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is very difficult for me to say off hand.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the matter pending with district officers only or do the Government also know anything about it?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the reply that I have already given.

#### NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, BURIA

\*965. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether any members have been nominated to the Notified Area Committee, Buria in place of the Muslim members who migrated to Pakistan after the Partition ; if so, the names of the members who have been nominated; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

Yes. The names of these nominated members are:—

(1) Dr. Daya Krishan Kapoor, refugee from West Punjab

(2) Mehta Devi Dayal, refugee from West Punjab.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** When were these members appointed?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Any approximate date?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They were appointed recently.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Have these members been residing within the limits of the Notified Area Committee?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, they are residing there.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Since when?



**Parliamentary Secretary:** The hon. Member will appreciate that I cannot tell the exact date from which a particular individual has been residing at a particular place.

#### RECRUITMENT OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

**\*981. Chaudhri Lahri Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is recruiting 35 Extra Assistant Commissioners in April, 1949 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that out of the total number, 10 are to be nominated and five to be appointed from old retired officers ?
- (c) whether the protest of the public against the method of nomination and appointing retired officers has come to the notice of the Government ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) No, it is proposed to recruit about 25 E. A. Cs. only.
- (b) No.
- (c) Protest, if any, is not based on facts.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF COAL IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

**\*982. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of firms and persons in Rohtak District who have been granted permits for coal during the last six months;
- (b) whether the Government has come to know of any case in which the coal referred to above has been misused or sold in black market ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Five firms were granted permits for coal from the

[Premier]  
provincial quota during the last six months in Rohtak district. If the hon. Member wishes the number of firms and persons granted coal from the district quota for industrial purposes it could be ascertained and communicated to him.

(b) No; no instance of misuse or sale in the black market has come to the notice of Government.

**Chaudhari Lahri Singh:** May I know if all those persons who were given permits for coal own brick kilns?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Presumably they must be owning kilns.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** After the allotment of coal, do the Government scrutinise from time to time that proper use is made by the allottees of the coal given to them?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Inspectors have been appointed in every district to look to that.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Has any report been received by the Government in regard to the allottees in Rohtak district.

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Have the Government issued any instructions to the Civil Supplies Committees regarding the manner in which coal should be distributed?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** If the quantity of coal to be given to an individual or firm is more than three wagons, Government has reserved the power to itself but when it is less than 3 wagons, the authority has been given to the district officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Are the instructions of the Government given to Civil Supplies Committees from time to time followed?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Are permits issued on the same basis throughout the province?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Uniform method is adopted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** What is that method?

**Mr. Speaker:** It does not arise.

PERMITS FOR THE EXPORT OF GRAM IN  
ROHTAK DISTRICT

**\*983. Chaudhari Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of persons of the Rohtak District who have been granted permits for the export of gram and its products from East Punjab during the last six months ;
- (b) whether the Government before granting such permits satisfied itself that the persons or firms to whom permits for export of gram were granted held foodgrain licences, or they had so much quantity of gram in their stock when they were granted the permits ;
- (c) how the selection is made of persons to whom permits for the purpose are granted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):** (a) No permits were issued.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What was the reason for not issuing permits ? Was it because there was no gram available in Rohtak or because no applicant was forthcoming ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not possible for me to say anything off hand.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** After all there must be some reason for not issuing any permit. I want to know what was that reason ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the reply that I have given.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Do I take it from the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary that permits were given to persons other than those belonging to Rohtak District since no permit was given to any person belonging to Rohtak District ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Notice is required for collecting that information.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,  
ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, REVENUE  
ASSISTANT REHABILITATION, TEHSILDARS AND  
NAIB TEHSILDARS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*689. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) on what date the salaries of the Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Assistant,

[Sardar Sajjan Singn]

Rehabilitation, Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildar of Amritsar District for the months of November, December, 1948 and January, 1949, were paid ;

- (b) on what dates the salaries of the Revenue Patwaris of each Tehsil of Amritsar District for the months of November, December, 1948 and January, 1949, were paid ;
- (c) (i) whether the salaries of the Revenue Patwaris of Tarn Taran Tehsil for the period mentioned in part (b) of this question were not paid upto the 10th February 1949 ;
- (ii) if so, the reasons for delay ;
- (iii) who was responsible for delay in payments ;
- (iv) what action Government proposes to take against the person responsible for this delay ;
- (d) what steps the Government proposes to take for the early payment of the salaries of the Patwaris and other menial staff ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

(a) and (b) Statements are laid on the table.

(c)(i) No.

(ii) and (iii) Mainly Patwaris' strike.

(iv) Does not arise.

(d) Instructions are being issued to all Deputy Commissioners to ensure prompt and timely payment of the dues of low paid officials particularly.

#### STATEMENT "A"

Sr. No.	Name of Officer	Dates of payment		
		November 1948	December 1948	January 1949
1.	Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.	3-12-1948	4-1-1949	4-2-1949
2.	Additional Deputy Comissioners Amritsar.	1-12-1948	5-1-1949	2-2-1949
3.	Revenue Assistant (Rehabilitation), Amritsar.	1-12-1948	3-1-1949	...
4.	Tahsildar, Amritsar.	8-12-1948	7-1-1949	7-2-1949
5.	Tahsildar, Ajnala	7-12-1948	12-1-1949	4-2-1949
6.	Tahsildar, Tarn Taran	8-12-1948	5-1-1949	4-2-1949
7.	Tahsildar (Rehabilitation), Amritsar,	17-12-1948	8-1-1949	4-2-1949

8. Tahsildar (Rehabilitation).	6-12-1948	10-1-1949	5-2-1949
9. Tahsildar (Rehabilitation), Tarn Taran	11-12-1948	12-1-1949	8-2-1949
10. Naib Tahsildars (Mahal)	9-12-1948	4-1-1949	9-2-1949
11. Naib Tahsildars (Rehabilitation)	4-1-1949	10-1-1949	11-2-1949

## STATEMENT "B"

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	Dates of payment		
		November 1948	December 1948	January 1949
1.	Amritsar	24-2-1949	24-2-1949	16-2-1949
2.	Tarn Taran	22-2-1949	22-2-1949	15-2-1949
3.	Ajnala	24-2-1949	24-2-1949	15-2-1949

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** The Deputy Commissioner, the Additional Deputy Commissioner and the Revenue Assistant got their pay for the month of November, in December while the Patwaris were given their pay for that month on the 24th of February. May I know the reason for this disparity ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** It has been stated in the main reply that the delay was chiefly due to their strike. Instructions have been issued that the low paid Government servants should particularly be paid promptly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not desirable that all Government officials from the Deputy Commissioner down to the Patwari should get their dues promptly ?

**Minister :** That should be the case but unfortunately that could not be done due to the circumstances that I have explained. Instructions have now been issued that timely payments should be made.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was this case peculiar to Amritsar only or to all the districts of the province ?

**Minister :** The question relates to Amritsar district only. I cannot say anything off hand about other districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the hon. Minister say why was this long delay of four months caused in the case of Patwaris only ? Do they possess more money than the Deputy Commissioners and other big officers so that they do not require their pay in time ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question. The delay was due to their strike.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was the delay caused in the case of those Patwaris who went on strike or in the case of all the Patwaris ?

**Minister :** Nearly all of them went on strike.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did their strike continue for four months ?

**Minister :** It does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the hon. Minister tell for how long did the strike continue ?

**Minister :** I cannot give the period with regard to each Patwari for which he went on strike.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** was any representation made by the Patwaris complaining about the delay in the payment of their dues ?

**Minister :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have they received their dues now ?

**Minister :** Yes.

RECEIPT OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND HALTING  
ALLOWANCE BILLS OF REVENUE PATWARIES  
OF TAHSIL TARN TARAN IN QANUNGO'S OFFICE.

\*690. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the date on which the travelling allowance and halting allowance bills respectively for the months of October, November and December, 1948 of the Revenue Patwaries of Tahsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, were received by the Office Qanungo of the Tahsil ;
- (b) the dates on which the bills for each of the months mentioned above were sent by the Tahsil Office Qanungo to the Sadar Office, Amritsar ;
- (c) the dates on which the bills mentioned above were sanctioned by the Officer Incharge Sadar Office, Amritsar ;
- (d) the dates on which the payments of these bills were made to the Patwaries ;
- (e) whether the Revenue Patwaris were paid their travelling allowance and halting allowance bills for the period mentioned above upto the 10th February, 1948; (ii) if not the



reasons thereof ; (iii) who was responsible for this delay ; (iv) what steps the Government proposes to take against the man responsible for the delay in payment ; (v) what steps the Government proposes to take to avoid the repetition of this delay ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** (a) October, 1948 on 26-12-48 and 9-1-49. There was no bill for November as Patwaris were on strike. December 9-2-49 and 17-2-49.

(b) October 1948 on 27-12-48 and 16-1-49. Patwaris being on strike there was no bill for November.

(c) Bills being incomplete have been returned to the Tahsildar concerned for completion.

(d) Does not rise.

(e) (i) No.

(ii) Bills being incorrectly prepared had to be returned.

(iii) (iv) and (v). D. C. Amritsar is being asked to arrange for preparation of bills correctly and see that payment is made regularly in time.

### SANCTION OF REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE FOR REVENUE PATWARIS

**\*691. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rehabilitation allowance was sanctioned for the Revenue Patwaris ;

(b) the date on which this allowance was sanctioned ;

(c) whether any rehabilitation allowance was paid to the Revenue Patwaris upto the 10th February, 1949, in Amritsar District; if not, the reasons thereof ;

(d) (i) the date on which the bills of rehabilitation allowance of Patwaris were sent to the Sadar Office, Amritsar, by the Office Qanungos of the Tahsils in Amritsar District ;  
(ii) when these bills were received by the Sadar Office ;

(e) the date or dates when the bills were passed for payment and the money drawn from the treasury ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** (a) Yes.

(b) 2nd December 1948.

(c) Yes, Rs. 615/9/-.

(d) and (e). No separate bills are prepared for the allowance. It is drawn along with the monthly pay.

# BANNING OF MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE

\*734. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the period for which public meetings and processions were prohibited under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in each of the districts in the Jullundur and Ambala Divisions respectively from 15-8-47 to 26-1-49;
- (b) the area in each district in which section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code was enforced during the said period ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh** : (a) and (b) Statement is laid on the table.

## Ambala Division—

Gurgaon	26-8-47 to 31-11-48	Prohibiting public meetings and processions.	Throughout the district.
Karnal	1-12-47 to 31-1-48	do.	do.
Ambala	13-12-48 to 12-9-49	do.	Within the limits of Cantonment Board, Ambala Cantt., Municipal Committee, Ambala City, Jagadhari, Rupar, and Kalka, Notified Area Committee, Kharar, Abdullapur and Buria Khizrabad in Tehsil Jagadhari.
Simla	24-1-49 to 23-2-49	do.	Throughout the district.

## Jullundur Division—

Jullundur	27-9-47 to 26-10-47	} do.	do.
	30-10-47 to 27-11-47		
	11-12-48 to 10-2-49		
	10-3-48 to 9-4-48		
		Prohibiting processions only.	

Ludhiana	15-8-47 to 7-9-47	} Prohibiting processions only.	Within the limits of Cantt. Board, Ambala Cantt., Municipal Committee Ambala City, Jagadhari, Rupar and Kalka, Notified Area Committee, Kharar, Abdullapur and Buria Khizrabad in Tehsil Jagadhari.
	2-8-48 to 1-9-48		
	9-12-48 to 9-3-49		
	1-6-48 to 30-6-48	} Prohibiting meetings and processions.	Within Municipal limits of Ludhiana City.
	11-9-48 to 10-10-48		
	15-10-48 to 14-12-48	Prohibiting meetings and processions	Within the Municipal area of Ludhiana Town.
	16-12-48 to 15-2-49	Prohibiting public meetings only.	Throughout the district.
Amritsar	1-10-47 to 31-10-47	} Prohibiting public meetings and processions.	do.
	12-12-48 to 26-12-48		

#### RETURN OF DEPOSIT OF ARMS ETC., TO M/s. HAFIZ GROUSE AND COMPANY, ROHTAK

**\*869. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:

- whether he received an application from Hafiz Ziauddin proprietor, Hafiz Grouse and Company, Arms and Ammunition Dealers, Rohtak, for the return of deposit of arms and ammunition in the month of November, 1948; if so, the result thereof;
- whether all the Arms and Ammunition of this shop were frozen on 18th June, 1947, under Government orders;
- the reasons for not releasing the goods when the applicant is a subject of Indian Union?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma):** (a) Yes it is under consideration.

- Orders were issued by the Government of the United Punjab and in pursuance thereof the firm deposited in the Malkhana at Rohtak one revolver and one gun.
- The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Did the Government receive several representations during the last year and a half from this firm for the return of their arms from Malkhana ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** This is exactly what you have asked in your question and I have replied to it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it not a fact that the matter was brought to the notice of the Government a number of times (Kaie Dafa) but no action has so far been taken ?

**Minister :** What is the meaning of the phrase 'Kaie Dafa' ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I mean more than once. May I know if this matter was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister more than once by a Member of this Assembly, who wrote to the hon. Minister personally?

**Minister:** Yes, a Member of this Assembly did write to me about this firm.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know that inspite of the fact that a Member of this Assembly wrote to the hon. Minister and the Deputy Commissioner also recommended their case the Government has failed to do justice to the firm ?

**Minister:** I have given the reply.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it not a fact that even on 11-11-1948 the firm sent a registered letter to the Government and although it is more than three months yet no reply has been sent and no action taken so far ?

**Minister:** A reply was sent but it is likely that it may not have been of the kind which they desired to get.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioner has sent his report to the effect that the owner of the firm is an Indian national and that his goods were deposited in the Malkhana but the property has not yet been returned ?

**Minister:** Yes it is correct that the property has not been returned so far.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** How long it is likely to take before a decision is reached by the Government ?

**Minister :** The recommendation is being examined and orders will be passed as soon as any decision is arrived at.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** What is the name of the Member of the Assembly ?

**Minister:** My friend, why probe deep ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** I am asking these questions about a firm of Rohtak by the name of 'Hafiz Grouse & Co.' belonging to Hafiz Ziauddin. It does not in any way concern me personally.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Pandit Ji 'chor ki darhi main tiinka'.

## GRANT OF LICENCES TO DEAL IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION

\*87. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that an application was made to him by Man Mohan Krishan Metha formerly proprietor, Messrs. G.R. Rattan & Co Arms and Ammunition Dealers, Lyallpur, for the grant of dealers license in Arms and Ammunition ; if so, the result thereof ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, had recommended the application very strongly ;
- (c) the names of those who have been granted dealers license in district Ambala ;
- (d) the names of such dealers, district-wise , who have been granted license to deal in arms?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) Yes, but the applicant was not selected

(b) The recommendations of local officers being confidential, it is not in the public interest to disclose them.

(c) and (d). It will not be in the public interest to give such lists.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that 4 or 5 applications from Ambala District including one from a very big refugee firm from Lyallpur for licence to deal in fire arms was sent to the hon. Minister, but the licences were given to those persons who had no connection with the trade ?

**Minister :** The information in the possession of the hon. Member is not correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that a refugee firm of Lyallpur known as G. R. Rattan & Co. submitted an application which was very strongly recommended by the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala but the hon. Minister rejected that application and licences were given to such persons who had nothing to do with the business previously ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member has delivered a speech but he has not covered any ground except already covered by him in part (a) of his question to which I have already replied.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I would like to have a straight answer from the hon. Minister to my question instead of his giving a round about reply. My question is whether it is a fact or not that a very big firm known as G. R. Rattan & Co. of Lyallpur sent an application very strongly recommended by the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala for a licence ?

**Minister :** The firm which the hon. Member has mentioned is neither so big as he has tried to show nor the Deputy Commissioner recommended the application strongly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the firms which have been given licences were bigger than the firm which I have named ?

**Minister :** I am not prepared to enter into this controversy.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why does not the hon. Minister substantiate whatever he says on the floor of the House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How can the orders about the giving of licences and the names of the persons who have been granted licences be confidential ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The persons who have got the licences have opened their shops and are sitting in the market. Why does the hon. Minister think that it is not in the public interest to give their names on the floor of the House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that in Ambala district and other parts of the province licences to deal in fire arms were given to those persons who were not in the trade previously but got these because of favouritism and other considerations ?  
(interruptions).

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. Please do not interrupt him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are there some members of this Assembly who have been given licences ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### CLASH BETWEEN THE POLICE AND REFUGEES OF CAMP NIAVAL, DISTRICT KARNAL

\*871. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the facts about the clash between the police and the refugees of Camp Niaval in district Karnal ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that charges of merciless beating and rape were alleged against the police ;
- (c) whether the enquiry made by local M.L.As into this incident was brought to the notice of the Government ;
- (d) what action, if any, has been or is proposed to be taken in this matter ?



**Minister for Home and Revenue :** (a) On 21st December, 1947, a complaint of robbery was lodged by one Chhabila Ram, a refugee, with the Kunjpura police, whereupon a case was registered at Police Station Sadr, Karnal, and a Head Constable of police with two Foot Constables proceeded to the spot. The police had hardly started enquiries into the complaint when a crowd of 40—50 refugees, who mostly comprised of Mahtam Criminal Tribes of the Muzaffargarh district, attacked the police party inflicting serious injuries on them and snatching away their fire-arms and ammunition. Some refugees conveyed the information about this incident to the Police Station Sadr, Karnal, at about 11-30 p.m. and after registering a case, S. Surat Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, with a posse of police rushed to the spot, recovered the arms and ammunition and arrested 16 of the principal accused. Superintendent of Police, Karnal, also visited the spot the next day and verified the investigation. Later on complaints being made against the police action, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the spot and made enquiries from the representatives of the refugees but no complaints of torture or rape were made to him at the time, nor any woman was produced before him. However, when police investigation into the assault and beating of public servants was started in right earnest and the assailants realised the gravity of their action, they came forward with allegations of rape, torture, etc., with a view to secure public sympathy and also approached the local Congress M.L.As.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) On receipt of report of the two M.L.As. into the alleged incident of rape and torture, the Superintendent of Police, Karnal, ordered the registration of a case and had it investigated by a senior Police Officer in the company of Messrs. Har Sarup and Mool Chand, the then President and General Secretary, respectively, of the District Congress Committee and also the girls on whom the rape was alleged to have been committed were medically examined, but the medical opinion did not support the version of the complainants nor any material evidence was forthcoming to substantiate the charge. As regards merciless beating only one man was produced who had just one healed abrasion on his person as against very serious injuries on the police officers who remained as indoor patients in a hospital for some considerable time. The high-handedness of the refugee complainants was established from the petition which they submitted to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister of India

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

wherein they admitted "they boldly resisted the police and managed to overpower, disarm and capture a few of them" but no mention of any rape story was made therein. On the 8th March, the refugee complainants made a representation to the Superintendent of Police, Karnal, expressing regret over their illegal action and requested withdrawal of the criminal case pending against them. The case against them was, therefore, withdrawn. The case of rape also was found false and cancelled.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister please state whether he fully considered the report which the two M.L.As. of Karnal prepared after making investigations on the spot and sent it to the Government as well as to the district authorities ?

**Minister :** Yes, it was given a careful consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is not a fact that Ch. Jagdish Chander, M.L.A., and Ch. Samar Singh, M.L.A., and also the President, District Congress Committee, sent a report to Government, in which they made some of the following recommendations, namely,

'We recommend strongly that (i) whole guard which went from Karnal should be immediately suspended. (ii) F.C. Khazan Singh and Head Constable Indraj Singh should be immediately dismissed. (iii) Cases of rape should be registered. A virgin girl had been raped by four constables. She should be medically examined. (iv) Though arrested under cognizable offence they should be immediately released.'

'In a way the police have exceeded the Zulum of Chimur and Ashti in the historic days of 1942 for which Prof. Bhansali had to undertake a fast unto death.'

**Mr. Speaker :** Answer to this question has already been given at the case has been registered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact that the Government after examining the report submitted by the two M.L.As., arrived at the conclusion that it was wrong while that of their officers was correct ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member need not put those M.L.As. in an embarrassing position. There was only a report based on certain information conveyed to them. As regards allegations, thorough investigation was made and they were found to be incorrect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government made any effort to verify the fact from the two M.L.As., and the President, Congress Committee, which they had mentioned in their

report ? May I also know whether the Government tried to prove to the satisfaction of the these gentlemen that their information was wrong ?

**Minister :** I regret that the hon. Member is not satisfied with the lengthy answer that has been given on the floor of the House. The answer fully covers the point that has been raised by him. It indicates that the President and the Secretary of the Congress Committee were associated with the investigation and as a result of which the allegations were found to be incorrect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the name of the President of the Congress Committee who, in the opinion of the hon. Minister, was associated with the enquiry ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That does not come under their administrative knowledge.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Minister has stated that two M.L.As. and the President of the Congress Committee were associated with the investigation. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to tell the name of the President.

**Minister :** If the hon. Member had listened to the reply carefully he would have known that Messrs. Har Saroop and Mool Chand, the then President and General Secretary, respectively, were associated with the investigation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the hon. Minister can say that whatever he has said about the report in question, is correct ?

**Minister :** Every word that I have said is correct.

**Chaudhri Samar Singh :** Is the hon. Minister aware that the M.L.As. concerned made enquiries about the matter not once but twice.

**Minister :** The hon. Member knows better.

**Chaudhri Samar Singh :** Is the hon. Minister aware that there has been no President of District Congress Committee, Karnal, so far after the name of L. Har Saroop ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is giving information.

**Minister :** I cannot contradict the hon. Member's statement which he makes on the floor of the House. I would, however, cause the enquiry to be made again in the light of this information.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know that when the report submitted by the two M.L.As. and the President of the Congress Committee was considered to be incorrect by the Government, was any opportunity afforded to these gentlemen to prove its correctness ?

**Minister :** Yes, the opportunity was there.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether this opportunity was offered in writing or by word of mouth.

**Minister :** I was not the Investigating Officer.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know whether any Officer of the Department afforded an opportunity to these gentlemen to substantiate their report ?

**Minister :** It was an open enquiry and everybody could adduce proof in support of his allegations. I presume the hon. Member who actually gave the report, took part in the investigation and there he had ample opportunity to substantiate his report.

#### PARTITION OF VILLAGE "ABADI" LAND AND COMMON PASTORAL LAND IN VILLAGES

\*873. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the rush for the partition of village "Abadi" land and common pastoral land by the Zamindars of villages ; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to take any action in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the Government that there is a great rush in the villages for the partition of village "Abadi" land and common pastoral land by the Zamindars ?

**Minister :** I have already replied to this question.

#### RECRUITMENT TO NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS

\*882. **Pandit Shree Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of volunteers district-wise recruited in the National Volunteer Corps together with the number of those who have completed their training ;
- (b) the number of persons who have left the Corps after joining it ;
- (c) whether any attempt was made to enroll Congress and nationalist minded youngmen ; if so, the method to do so and the result thereof ;
- (d) in what respect does the Corps differ from the regular police ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

- (c) Every possible effort was made to enrol willing loyal subjects of the Indian Dominion including Congress and national minded people by seeking the co-operation of all non-official organisations including Congress Committees.
- (d) Policemen are whole-time Government servants. But members of National Volunteer Corps are not so and are called out to duty when necessary ; they are paid honorarium for the days they remain on duty. National Volunteer Corps consists of a force of Volunteers who have taken upon themselves the duty of National Services in spirit of sacrifice.

*Statement showing the number of volunteers district-wise recruited who have completed their training and those who have left the Corps after joining it upto 1st February, 1949.*

Name of District	No. of Volunteers recruited.	No. of Volunteers who have completed their training.	No. of Volunteers who have left the Corps after joining it.
Amritsar.	1,200	1,100	300
Ferozepore.	1,150	1,000	252
Jullundur.	1,200	1,050	470
Ludhiana.	1,200	1,100	500
Gurdaspur.	1,000	870	200
Kangra.	1,000	830	124
Hoshiarpur.	700	580	113
Hissar.	986	850	195
Ambala.	890	800	592
Karnal.	1,000	950	453
Rohtak.	1,000	875	500
Gurgaon.	944	880	317
Simla.	200	200	35
Total.	12,470	11,085	6,051

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the

Government have succeeded in their efforts to enrol loyal and patri-



**Minister :** Government are satisfied that they have secured the services of really patriotic and national minded youngmen in spite of the obstruction or—to put it mildly—lack of co-operation from certain quarters.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** As between the Civic Guards of the Unionists' days and the National Volunteers of the present day, do the Government find much difference so far as their patriotic spirit is concerned ?

**Minister :** The difference is the same as the difference between the colour of the coat (black) and that of the cap (white) of the hon. Member.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are the Government satisfied that really patriotic men have come in ?

**Minister :** Yes. Our efforts in this direction have not been unrewarded.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** So far as the spirit of loyalty to the country is concerned, are the National Volunteers of the same spirit as that of the Police ?

**Minister :** I have not followed the insinuation. The members of the police force are loyal and patriotic and those of the National Volunteer Corps have these qualities—perhaps in a greater degree.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the spirit of patriotism and loyalty to the country the same in National Volunteers as in members of the police force ?

**Minister :** Comparisons are always odious and I will not indulge in them. Government are satisfied that the members of the police force and the National Volunteer Corps are patriotic, loyal and National spirited men. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Have the Government received any representation from the members of the National Volunteer Corps that their daily allowance is less and it should be increased ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise.

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DEMANDS OF PATWARIES WORKING IN THE EAST PUNJAB

\*970. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the patwaries of East Punjab are demanding increase of their



- (b) whether it is a fact that in the latter half of 1948 the patwaries threatened to go on strike if their demands were not considered by the Government ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the patwaries decided to call off the strike on the assurance given by the Government that their demands would be sympathetically considered by the Government and their salary and allowances would be increased ;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) above be in affirmative, what steps has the Government taken so far to implement their promise and how far they have met the demands formulated by the patwaries ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (b). Yes.
- (c) Yes, on the assurance that their demands will be sympathetically considered.
- (d) Demands are under consideration. In the meanwhile, a temporary allowance of Rs. 10 p.m. has been allowed from 1st October 1948 to Mahal and Rehabilitation patwaries.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** How long will the Government take to decide about the other demands of the patwaries ?

**Minister :** A decision has already been taken by the Government in the matter and the grant of Rs. 10p.m. has been well received. The other demands are not such which require immediate decision.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** How long will it take to come to a decision on the other demands ?

**Minister :** They will be decided in due course.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** What is the definition of "in due course".

**Minister :** I cannot tell that to a Master of Arts. (*Laughter.*)

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** What are the other demands of the patwaries ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question was asked and replied to some days back.

#### REPRESENTATION OF SHRI SHAFI ALI KHAN, EX-M.L.A.

\*872. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government has received a representation from Shri Shafi Ali Khan Ex-M.L.A. (Punjab), Rohtak, to the effect that his property be restored to him, as he had not evacuated to Pakistan and was a citizen of the Indian Union ; if so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :** A representation was received from K.B. Chaudhry Shafi Ali Khan, Ex M.L.A., Rohtak, regarding the restoration of his property and his landed property was restored to him. The case is being further looked into at present.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if his property has been restored to him ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Reply has been given to this question.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** The hon. Member puts supplementary questions without hearing the reply.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When did Chaudri Shafi Ali Khan make his representation ?

**Minister :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I can tell him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has all his property been given back to him ?

**Minister :** Landed property has been restored to him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What was that property, urban or rural ?

**Minister :** It was landed property.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member does not feel satisfied with the reply that is given to him. He wants a reply according to his own taste and his own satisfaction and for that purpose he unnecessarily enters into cross-examination.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, what is the remedy when a reply is wrong ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The remedy does not lie with me ; it lies with the hon. Member himself. He can move a substantive motion.

#### BOATSMEN AT HARIKE BRIDGE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

**\*732. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

- (a) (i) whether it is a fact that the boatmen at Harike bridge in district Amritsar have to work from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily ; (ii) whether it is a fact that half of them have to work as watchmen at the bridge during the night of every alternate day in addition to their usual duty ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that none of them is paid for their overwork duty during night ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) the total number of holidays allowed to these boatmen during a year ;

(d) the number of days on which they are allowed to go on casual leave ;

(e) whether it is a fact that they also work on Sundays and are paid no extra amount for this; if so, the reasons for the same ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** (a) (i) Yes. The boatsmen have to work from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M. with the usual recess of one hour or so for taking meals, etc.

(ii). No. But half the number of boatsman employed on the boat bridge at Harike sleep there at night so as to be available at odd hours in case of emergency.

(b) When boatsmen have to work at night in case of emergency in addition to work during the day, they are paid extra wages.

(c) Half of them are allowed a holiday on each Sunday and Gazetted holidays for religious functions.

(d) They are allowed casual leave to the extent of ten (10) days during a year.

(e) No. Please see answer in para. (c) above.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** When all the labourers of private establishments and private firms get Sundays off, why does the Government not give complete rest to their own labourers ?

**Minister :** It is not possible for the Government to do so in the interest of work. Moreover, a private employer does not pay his labourer for the days they do not work while we pay our men for the twelve months of the year.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF HARIKE BOAT BRIDGE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

**\*733. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

(a) whether my letter No. 462, dated 2. 2. 49 sent to the hon. Minister under a registered cover in which several defects in the administration regarding the collection of fare at the Harike boat bridge in District Amritsar were pointed out, has been received by him ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(b) what action, if any has been taken by the Government in regard to this matter ;

(c) the income per month at the Harike boat bridge from 15-8-47 to 31-12-48 ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the forms of receipts for the collection over this boat bridge were exhausted in the second week of January, 1949 ;

(e) the date on which the intimation by the officer in charge of the bridge was sent to his senior officer about this matter ;

(f) the date on which the receipt books were actually exhausted, the date on which new receipt books were sent by the Sadar Office to the Officer incharge of the bridge ;

(g) the period for which no receipts could be issued to the passengers who crossed this bridge ;

(h) whether any enquiry has been made by the Government into this matter ;

(i) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government over this matter ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) The figures of income per month from 1.12.47 to 31.12.48 are given in the enclosed statement. No collections could be made from 15. 8. 47 to 30. 11. 47--as due to unsettled conditions then prevailing, there was no staff for this work.

(d) No report regarding the exhaustion of forms was received.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Forms in the month of January were supplied on 28. 1. 49.

(g) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Does not arise.

*Statement showing income credited into Government Treasury on account of toll collection at Harike Fercy.*

Name of month.	Amount credited.	Date of deposit
December, 1947.	1487 0 6	5-1-1948
January, 1948.	747 0 6	19-1-1948.
February, 1948.	960 7 6	18-2-1948.
	952 1 6	7 2-1948.
	<u>1912 9 0</u>	
March, 1948.	660 0 6	6-3-1948.
	480 4 0	18-3-1948.
	<u>1140 4 6</u>	
April, 1948.	244 13 6	3-4-1948.
May, 1948.	1196 6 6	4-5-1948.
	652 0 0	19-5-1948.
	<u>1848 6 6</u>	
June, 1948.	640 1 0	4-6-1948.
	609 0 0	19-6-1948.
	<u>1249 1 0</u>	
July, 1948.	611 10 0	2-7-1948.
	804 10 0	21-7-1948.
	<u>1416 4 0</u>	
August, 1948.	167 2 6	2-8-1948.
	131 4 0	18-8-1948.
	<u>298 6 6</u>	
September, 1948.	150 3 0	1-9-1948.
	381 13 0	17-9-1948.
	<u>532 0 0</u>	
October, 1948.	725 11 0	4-10-1948.
	728 2 0	21-10-1948.
	<u>1453 13 0</u>	
November, 1948.	822 0 0	5-11-1948.
	725 4 0	19-11-1948.
	<u>1547 4 0</u>	
December, 1948.	615 12 0	2-12-1948.
	919 7 0	20-12-1948.
	<u>1535 3 0</u>	

NOTE :—Due to the unsettled conditions there was no staff for this work from 15-8-1947 to 30-11-1947, Hence no collections.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** In my letter I specifically mentioned the dates on which I crossed the Harike Boat Bridge and the receipt books were not available there.

**Minister for Public Works :** The hon. Member was not only not satisfied with the complaint which he made in writing but he put all his grievances in the form of a question. All the available information has been supplied to him.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Government make enquiries a second time according to the facts supplied by me on my personal knowledge ?

**Minister :** No good will come out if enquiries are made a second time except that the time of the Government officials would be wasted.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. The hon. Minister cannot say that the time would be wasted. This is a reflection upon the dignity of the House and I would request all the hon. Members to avoid such remarks which might in any manner reflect upon the dignity of this Honourable House.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** May I with your permission remove a misunderstanding, Sir ? The hon. Minister only said that the time of Government officials would be wasted. He never said that the time of the House would be wasted. He never meant any reflection upon this House

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not want any discussion on my ruling.

#### BUILDING OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COLONY AT THE SITE OF NEW CAPITAL

\*971 **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an administrative colony is proposed to be built near the site of the New Capital ; if so, the time by which it is expected to be completed ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :**

(a) Yes, an administrative colony, generally known as Neighbourhood Unit, is proposed to be built in advance, at the site of the Capital ;

(b) Definite target date cannot be given at this stage.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What progress has been made with regard to the building of the Neighbourhood Unit ?

**Minister :** Material is being collected on the site of the New Capital.



**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What is the material that has been collected on the site ?

**Minister :** Material which is necessary for building purposes, namely, bricks, cement etc.,

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Please address the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have so many times told the hon. Members not to give directions to other members and Ministers. It is my business to see whether a member is addressing the Chair or not. I may also tell Shri Prabodh Chandra that he is not to speak so long as he is sitting.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, the hon. Minister was not addressing the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not for any other Member to tell me. It is my duty and I may also tell the hon. Member that I am more conversant with the Rules than he is.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** May I know as to how much cement, how much timber, how much iron and how many bricks have been procured for the purpose ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Would the hon. Minister tell the House how many officers have been deputed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order order. I may tell the hon. Members that I can refuse the privilege of putting supplementary questions to those hon. Members who ask irrelevant or unnecessarily lengthy questions. Not only that, I can also refuse to call an hon. Member for his next question, even if the question appears on the notice paper. When I am saying this, I have Pandit Shri Ram Sharma in my mind. Question time should not be spent in jokes. It is an important hour of which the House should make the best use in eliciting information from the Government.

## AUCTIONING OF FOREIGN LIQUOR SHOPS

**\*972. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government for auctioning the foreign liquor shops in future and thus change the old system of issuing Licences to the dealers ; if so the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :** There is no proposal for auctioning the foreign liquor shops.

RECLAMATION OF WASTE LAND IN THE PROVINCE

\*973. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of tractors that are engaged for the reclamation of waste lands in the East Punjab ;
- (b) the area of land that has been reclaimed during the year 1948-49 ;
- (c) the total area of waste land that the Government propose to reclaim and the period it expects to take in doing so ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :

- (a) 27.
- (b) 2033 acres upto the 9th March, 1949.
- (c) Five lac acres during next five years.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : In how much time has the area as stated by the Parliamentary Secretary been cultivated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I require notice to gather this information; I do not know the date when the work was started.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : What is the approximate output every day ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : From 75 to 100 acres of land are re-claimed every day.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : These tractors are on the work for the last three months but only 2,033 acres of land has been re-claimed upto the 9th of March.

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Thanks so much for the information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is the work of reclamation of land being done by tractors only or some other methods are also being employed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Only tractors are being employed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : In which district is the work being done ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : In the Karnal district.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Has this reclamation work started in any other district also ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : So far it has not been taken in hand in any other district.

FIRMS OF THE HARYANA PRANT PERMITTED TO EXPORT  
GRAINS.

**\*883. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of firms permitted to export foodgrains from the Haryana districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal ;
- (b) the names of firms permitted to import cotton seed from outside and recommended by the Civil Supplies Department for railway priority in these four districts ;
- (c) the names of firms who supplied grains to the Government from Hissar District ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

- (a) No permit was given to any firm.
- (b) There are no restrictions on the import of cotton seed into the Province and, therefore, the question of granting permission to specific firms for imports into the districts named in the question does not arise. The names of firms who were recommended for railway priority for the import of cotton seed into these four districts are laid on the table (Statement I).

(c) Purchases are made from the day to day arrivals in Mandis and from stockists for local delivery into the Government Provincial Reserve. In the case of purchases from daily arrivals, a large number of sellers are involved, mostly Zamindars and no record is kept of their names. A list of stockists from whom purchases have been made in the Hissar District for local delivery into the Provincial Reserve is given in Statement II, which is laid on the table.

**[Parliamentary Secretary]**

Statement I showing names of the firms who were recommended for railway priority for the import of cotton seed into Rohtak, Karnal, Gurgaon and Hissar Districts.

No	Name of the firm with address	District for which the railway priority was recommended
1.	Messrs. Mathra Dass & Co. Hissar	Hissar
2.	Messrs. Bansi Dhar Sita, Uklana Mandi District Hissar	-Do-
3.	Messrs. Mangal Chand Proshotam Foodgrains Merchants, Nai Mandi Hissar.	-do-
4.	L. Mangal Chand c/o L. Hardev Sahai, Hissar.	-do-
5.	Messrs. Anand & Brothers' Anand Bhawan, Anand Road, Hissar.	-do-
6.	Messrs. Nikoo Ram, Daulat Ram. Commission Agents, Budhlada District Hissar.	-do-
7.	Messrs. Suraj Mal Onkar Mal, Loharu, District Hissar.	-Do
8.	Messrs. Lachhu Ram Prabhu Dayal c/o Messrs. Daya Ram Ram Gopal, Hissar.	-Do-
9.	Messrs. Daya Dass Rama Nand, Foodgrain and Cotton Merchants, Chowk Maliala Singh. Amritsar,	-do-
10.	Messrs. Laxmi Trading Co. Seed Wholesale Dealers Akola.	-do-
11.	Messrs. Shri Ram Har Chand, Seed Dealers, Akola.	-do-
12.	Messrs. Mool Chand Dan Mal Sirsa, District Hissar.	-do-
13.	Seth Ram Narain Bhola Nath, Cotton Ginning and Oil Mills Owners, Hodal, District Gurgaon.	Gurgaon.
14.	Messrs. Roopi Mal Prabhu Dayal. Faridabad (G. I. P. Railway). District Gurgaon.	do-
15.	Shri Om parkash, Karkhana, Faridabad, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Gurgaon.	-do-
16.	Messrs. Chuhar Mal and Co Zonal Inspecting Agents to East Punjab Government. Chowk Mehla Singh Amritsar.	-do-
17.	Messrs. Kahna Mal Bagga Mal Bankers and Commission Agents, Mandi Guru Har Sahai, District Ferozpur.	-do-
18.	S. Gian Singh c/o Messrs Ganpat Mal Kishen Datt. Commission Agents, Samalkha, District Karnal,	Karnal
19.	Messrs Hakim Rai Gopi Ram, Bhusri, Panipat.	-do-
20.	Messrs Sita Ram Bindrawan, Seed Dealers, Akola	-do-
21.	Mr. Masudi Lal Gupta, Seed Dealers, Akola	
22.	Messrs Shri Ram Har Chand, Seed Dealers, Akola	-do-
23.	L. Ram Dayal c/o Piroo Mal Bhim Singh, Sampla Mandi, District Rohtak	Rohtak
24.	Messrs Chuhar Mal & Co, Zonal Inspecting Agents to East Punjab Governments, Chowk Mehla Singh, Amritsar	-do-
25.	Messrs Des Raj Munshi Lal, Mohalla Jogian, Samalkha, District Karnal,	-do-
26.	Messrs Shri Ram Har Chand, Khamgaon,	-do-

Statement II showing the names of the firms from whom the East Punjab Government purchased foodgrains from the Hissar District for internal use during the crop year 1948-49.

- |                                                 |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Messrs Ballu Mal Rulli Chand,<br>Sirsa        | 19 Messrs Nandram Daulat Ram<br>Sirsa             |
| 2 Messrs Chanan Ram Narauta Ram,<br>Kallanwali  | 20 Messrs Narsinghdas Siri Krishen,<br>Kallanwali |
| 3 Messrs Dhanmal Ram Kumar,<br>Sirsa            | 21 Messrs Nauray Rai Inder Sain,<br>Adampur       |
| 4 Messrs Dayaram Om Parkash,<br>Sirsa           | 22 Messrs Onkar Mal Manohar Lal,<br>Adampur       |
| 5 Messrs Fateh Chand Kanshi Ram<br>Adampur      | 23 Messrs Panna Lal Wilaiti Ram,<br>Sirsa         |
| 6 Messrs Gauri Datt Gopi Ram<br>Adampur         | 24 Messrs Pam Sukhdas Khubi Ram,<br>Hissar        |
| 7 Messrs Ghisa Ram Banwari Lal,<br>Sirsa        | 25 Messrs Ram Narain Lal Chand                    |
| 8 Messrs Ganpat Rai Kura Mal,<br>Adampur        | 26 Messrs Ram Narain Pallu Ram,<br>Sirsa          |
| 9 Messrs Hunamal Tirloke Chand,<br>Adampur      | 27 Messrs Raunak Ram Anant Ram,<br>Dabwali        |
| 10 Messrs Jayotiram Lakhiram,<br>Sirsa          | 28 Messrs Ram Jasmal Shiv Parshad                 |
| 11 Messrs Jes Raja Ramji Das,<br>Sirsa          | 29 Messrs Ram Sahai Brijlal,<br>Bhiwani           |
| 12 Messrs Kundan Lal Dev- Raj,<br>Kallanwali    | 30 Messrs Ram Sahai Brijlal, Dabwali              |
| 13 Messrs Lachhi Ram Kundan Lal,<br>Adampur     | 31 Messrs Ragunath Rai Prahlad Rai,<br>Adampur    |
| 14 Messrs Lekh Ram Amin Chand<br>Bhattu         | 32 Messrs Shiv Karan Das Hari Chand,<br>Bhattu    |
| 15 Messrs Lacchi Ram Hanuman Das<br>Sirsa       | 33 Messrs Shiv Dat Rai Fateh Chand,<br>Hissar     |
| 16 Messrs Mool Chand Faqir Chand,<br>Kallanwali | 34 Messrs Siri Ram Nand Lal,<br>Bhattu            |
| 17 Messrs Maiditta Mal Piar Singh,<br>Sirsa     | 35 Messrs S.P Virmani & Sons Ltd.,<br>Amritsar    |
| 18 Messrs Noonkaran Das Des Raj<br>Sirsa        | 36 Messrs Viroo Ram Kishen,<br>Sirsa              |

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said in reply that there are no restrictions on the import of cotton seed. May I know if ever there were restrictions on its import ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not understand what the hon. Member means by the word 'ever'. Does he want to know whether there were restrictions on the import of cotton seed 2 months before, 8 months before or 20 months before? It is not clear from his question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The life of this Government is only about a year and a half. I want to know if ever there were any restrictions during the last 8 or 10 months ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There were no restrictions on import of cotton seed.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Does the hon. Parliamentary Secretary know that unless wagons are allotted by the railways, nothing can be imported from other provinces? I want to know whether any priorities for wagons were given for importing the cotton seed.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The statement giving the names of the firms which were recommended for railway priorities has been laid on the table of the house.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Does the hon. Parliamentary Secretary know that the Central Government does not give any priorities even on the recommendation of the Punjab Government to the persons of the East Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say anything about it.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the East Punjab Government prepared to depute any Minister or other officer to the Central Government to see that the persons from the East Punjab are given railway priorities ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is a suggestion for a particular action.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Civil Supplies Department made any recommendations for railway priorities in favour of certain firms or individuals, for the import of cotton seed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

#### CONFIRMATION OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

**\*887. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that confirmation of Extra Assistant Commissioners is overdue since long; if so, the reasons therefor ?



**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):

The confirmation of twentyone Extra Assistant Commissioners has already been notified. The question of confirming some more Extra Assistant Commissioners is at present under the consideration of Government.

As regards the reasons for delay, the hon. Member is referred to the reply given to part (a) of question No. \*486 asked by him in October last.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any E.A.C. been confirmed since the time this Government came into power ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** The Parliamentary Secretary has already replied to this very question.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Minister should not say anything while sitting on his seat. If he wants to reply a question he must get up.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said in my reply that the confirmation of 21 Extra Assistant Commissioners has already been notified.

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**REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE  
P. C. S. (EXECUTIVE)**

**\*986. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether there is any scheduled caste officer in the P. C. S. (Executive) ; if so, the number thereof ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to recruit any person belonging to the scheduled caste in the P.C.S. (Executive) by nomination ; if so, the number proposed ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) No.

(b) The claims of candidates belonging to Scheduled castes will be considered if Government recruit any officers to the P.C.S. (Executive Branch) by nomination. At present, it is not proposed to recruit any persons to this service by nomination.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** In view of the fact that there is no Harijan officer in the cadre, does not the Government think that an injustice has been done to the Harijans?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** If nominations are made and if there are suitable candidates, the claims of the Harijans will be kept in view and will be considered at the time of making nominations.

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Vide page 282 supra

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
SERVICES OF JAIL WARDERS AT THE DISPOSAL OF  
DETENUS.

232. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the services of one or more jail warders used to be placed at the disposal of the Political detenues or security prisoners between the period January 1942 to December 1945 to fetch their food articles and other necessities of life;
- (b) whether any charges were made out of the diet allowance or sundry allowance of the detenues on account of the services referred to above;
- (c) whether it is a fact that under the new rules the practice referred to in part (a) above has been abandoned and the jail contractors have been allowed to deduct one anna commission per rupee out of the diet allowance of detenues for the supply of food articles to them; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The deduction of the commission in question has since been stopped.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY FINANCIAL  
COMMISSIONERS, EAST PUNJAB. COMMISSIONER AND  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OF AMBALA DIVISION.

233 **Sardar Sajjan Singh.** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total amount of travelling allowance paid to the Financial Commissioners of the East Punjab from 1st April 1948 to 31st January, 1949;
- (b) the total amount drawn as travelling allowance by the Commissioner, Ambala Division from 1st April, 1948 to 31st January, 1949;
- (c) the total amount received as travelling allowance by each of the Deputy Commissioners of Ambala Division from 1st April 1948, to 31st January, 1949 ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

(a) Rs. 7997/13/7. This amount includes a sum of Rs. 535/- expended on air passage from Delhi to Karachi and back in connection with the Inter-Dominion Conference relating to evacuee property.

(b) Rs. 2954/11/-. This amount includes a sum of Rs. 387/10/- on account of transfer travelling allowance and Rs. 2500/- as fixed travelling allowance drawn by the Commissioner.

(1) Deputy Commissioner, Ambala Rs. 3531/10/- (includes Rs. 197/15/- drawn as transfer travelling allowance).

(2) Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon. Rs. 4896/3/- (includes Rs. 252/9/- drawn as transfer travelling allowance)

(3) Deputy Commissioner, Hissar Rs. 1748/7/-

(4) Deputy Commissioner, Karnal. Rs. 1354/7 (includes Rs. 327/5/- drawn as transfer travelling allowance)

(5) Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak. Rs. 2988/15/-

(6) Deputy Commissioner, Simla. Rs. 4252/3/- (includes Rs. 3776/7/- drawn as transfer travelling allowance.)

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TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY  
COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.  
JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

234 **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total amount drawn as Travelling Allowance by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division from 1st April, 1948, to 31st January, 1949;
- (b) the total amount drawn as Travelling Allowance by each of the Deputy Commissioners of Jullundur Division from 1st April, 1948, to 31st January, 1949.

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.**

- (a) Rs. 4076/-/- including fixed travelling allowance at Rs. 250/- p.m.
- (b) 

(1) Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar	Rs. 2845/-
(2) Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur	Rs. 3919/-
(3) Deputy Commissioner, Kangra.	Rs. 3118/-
(4) Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur.	Rs. 1833/-
(5) Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur.	Rs. 1166/-
(6) Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.	Rs. 2344/-
(7) Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.	Rs. 4663/-

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY POLICE OFFICERS  
OF EAST PUNJAB.

235. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) total amount paid as Travelling Allowance to the Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ambala Range, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jullundur Range from 1-4-48 to 31-1-49;
- (b) total amount paid as Travelling Allowance to each of the Superintendents of Police of Jullundur Division from 1-4-48 to 31-1-49;
- (c) total amount paid as Travelling allowance to each of the Superintendents of Police Ambala Division from 1-4-48 to 31-1-49?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) (b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table.

## STATEMENT.

(a) Inspector General of Police.	2127-10-0
Dy. Inspector-General of police, Ambala Range	1646-0-0
Dy. Inspector General of police, Jullundur Range.	1644-9-0
(b) Supdt. of police     Kangra.	3012-2 0
Hoshiarpur.	1620-0-0
Jullundur.	2367-9-0
Ludhiana.	2169-14 0
Gurdaspur.	2705-13-0
Senior Supdt. of Poice Ferozepore.	2330-15-0
Additional Supdt. of police Ferozepore.	1265-6-0
Senior Supdt. of police, Amritsar.	2328-7-0
(c) Supdt. of Police,     Hissar.	1934-10-0
Rohtak.	2292-14-0
Gurgaon.	2937-15-0
Karnal.	4121-10-0
Ambala.	4456-1-0
Simla.	2081-13-0

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**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY OFFICERS OF  
POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT**

**236 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount received as Travelling Allowance by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, East Punjab from the 1st April 1948 to the 31st January 1949.
- (b) total amount received as Travelling Allowance by each of the Superintendents Police, Criminal Investigation Department, from the 1st April 1948 to the 31st January 1949.

**The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

- (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the table.

Statement showing the Amount of T. A. received by the DIG/CID and each of the Suptds. of Police in C. I. D. from 1-4-48 to 31-1-49.

NAME	Period	Amount of T.A. received
1. Sardar Gurdial Singh, I. P., Dy. Inspector General of Police, CID. East Punjab.	1-4-48 to 31-1-49	Rs. 3343-2-0
2. Bakshi Badri Nath, Supdt. of Police (A) CID. East Punjab.	—do—	Rs. 2614-14-0
3. Sardar Sant Singh Nalwa, Supdt. of Police (B) CID. East Punjab, (joined the CID with effect from 11-8-48)	12-8-48 to 31-1-49	Rs. 1600-8-0
4. Shri N. R. Sahny, I. P., Supdt. of Police CID, East Punjab (Joined the CID with effect from the 22nd October, 1948).	22-10-48 to 31-1-49	Rs. 281-4-0
5. Pt. Shambu Nath, Supdt. of Police, CID. (Remained in the CID, upto 15-7-48).	1-4-48 to 15-7-48	Rs. 978-6-0

#### RE-INSTATEMENT IN SERVICE OF PERSONS DISMISSED FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.

237. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- whether it is a fact that S. Bahadur Singh, Phoola Singh, Narain Singh and Kapur Singh, Headmen of village Bhithewidh Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar were dismissed by the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar on 15-1-40.
- whether it is a fact that they were dismissed in connection with a political conference held at their village on 25-3-39 on account of their pro-congress attitude and the sympathies with the conference organisers ;
- if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government proposes to reinstate them ; if not, the reasons therefor ?
- whether any representation from these headmen of the village praying for reinstatement of the persons referred to above was received by the hon. Premier on or about 31-1-49 ?



**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) According to the information in Government's possession, the reason for dismissal was their failure to perform their duties as village officials.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No such representation is traceable.

— — — — —

**PAKISTANI RAID ON VILLAGE BUNDALA DISTRICT  
AMRITSAR.**

238. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that village Bundala, police station Patti, district Amritsar is a big border village;
- (b) whether it is a fact that no P.A.P. post was stationed in this village up till 31-5-1948;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no rifles were given to any of the villagers of this village up till 1st June, 1948 under the village defence scheme; if so the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that rifles and ammunition were given to all the border village inhabitants after the partition;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Pakistanis raided this village on 31st May 1948 and were successful in taking away about 275 (two hundred and seventy five) cattle heads worth about fifty thousand rupees from the houses of the villagers;
- (f) if the answers to parts (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative what action has been or proposed to be taken in this matter;
- (g) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of the village made many representations to the district authorities much before 31-5-1948 for the supply of arms under the village defence scheme;
- (h) whether the hon. Premier has received representation from Sardar Chanan Singh, Kapur Singh and other villagers claiming compensation for the loss sustained by them on account of the raid referred to above;
- (i) whether any enquiry was made by the Government in this behalf and what decision has been arrived at by the Government in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**

- (a) It is not a big village and is not a border village being five miles from the border.
- (b) yes.
- (c) yes; rifles were given to other villagers within 3 miles of the border where their need was greater.
- (d) Yes; to most of the border villages.
- (e) A raid took place on the 24th May 1948 and not 31st May 1948.
- (f) immediate steps to arm the villages were taken.
- (g) Yes.
- (h) No.
- (i) A case was registered on the 26th May 1948 but was filed as untraced.

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**FAMILY QUARTERS AT POLICE STATION VALTOHA  
KHALRA ETC. IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

239. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether there is no scheme under the consideration of the Government for the construction of family quarters for the police employees at police stations Valtoha, Khalra and police post Khemkaran, District Amritsar; if not the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

First part — Yes;

Second part — Does not arise.

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**PROFESSIONAL TAX ON LOW-PAID GOVERNMENT  
SERVANTS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

240. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Police Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Canal Patwaries of Amritsar District have been levied a professional tax by the District Board authorities of Amritsar, if so, the rate thereof;
- (b) whether the P.A.P. posts' employees of the border have also been called upon to pay this tax, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether other Government servants of various Depart-

ments posted in Amritsar District have also been called upon to pay this tax, if not, the reasons for this discrimination;

- (d) whether the Government propose to exempt the low paid Government servants from the assessment of the tax referred to above?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

- (a) Yes, vide Schedule annexed to Punjab Government notification No. 2735-LG-41/26931, dated the 7th May, 1941. Copy enclosed\*
- (b) No, because P.A.P. staff are subject to frequent transfers and this makes recoveries well-nigh impossible.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

RENEWAL OF LICENCES FOR ARMS.

241. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the licences issued for Arms are taken away from the licensees for a few days before their renewals;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that no receipts are being issued by the District authorities when the arms licences are taken and deposited with them for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the licensees have to keep the arms with them without any licences for this period;
- (d) whether it is a fact that whenever they meet any police officers they are called upon to show the licences and on their inability to comply with the orders of Police the licensees are put to trouble ;
- (e) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what action; if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Receipts are issued if asked for by licensees.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Government have no information.
- (e) The matter will be considered by Government.

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\*Kept in the Library.

INSANITARY CONDITIONS OF POLICE LOCK-UP  
WALTOHA DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

242. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he received a representation sent by me on or about the 1st of March 1948 regarding the insanitary conditions of Police lock-up at Waltoha Police Station, District Amritsar;
- (b) whether anything has been done up till 25th February, 1949 to improve the sanitary conditions of the said lock-up; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the date on which the department decided to make certain alterations to improve its sanitation;
- (d) the date on which this decision was communicated to the P. W. D. for estimates of costs;
- (e) the date on which the said estimates were prepared and submitted to the higher authorities for sanction;
- (f) The date on which the sanction was given?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Funds have been placed at the disposal of the P. W. D. and the work will be completed before 31. 3. 1949.
- (c) 1-9-1948.
- (d) 1-10-1948.
- (e) 22-10-1948.
- (f) 18-11-1948.

ACCOMMODATION IN JAILS

243. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the authorised space allowed per head for accommodation in jails under the rules;
- (b) the authorised accommodation in each of the jails of the Jullundur Division;
- (c) the monthly average number of the prisoners who remained confined in each of the jails referred to in part (b) above during the period 1-1-48 to 31-1-49;
- (d) what steps, if any, the Government has taken to provide more accommodation for the increased number of prisoners in the above referred to jails?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a), (b) and (c). Statements are laid on the Table. \*

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\*Kept in the Library.

- (d) Construction of pacca accommodation for one thousand prisoners in the Central Jail, Ferozepore is in hand and that for 500 to 600 in the District Jail, Amritsar, is under consideration.

#### LANDS WASHED AWAY BY FLOODS

244. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the village site of Kot Rai Budha, Sub-Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was washed away by the river flood in 1946,
- (b) whether it is a fact that ten irrigating wells and a large tract of fertile lands of this village was also washed away by the floods referred to above;
- (c) the total cultivable area in the village in 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48, respectively ;
- (d) the total area actually cultivated in the village during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48, respectively;
- (e) whether it is a fact that as a result of loss of the cultivable lands the financial position of the villagers has been adversely affected;
- (f) whether the village owners sent a representation to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, East Punjab Government, Simla through the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar, which was forwarded by me on 6th January, 1949, requesting thereby that canal water be granted for their barani lands at village Kot Naw Ahead and Saffa Singh Wala to make good the loss of the washed away lands;
- (g) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to give relief to the cultivators concerned?

**The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:**

- (a) Yes, it was flooded by river.
- (b) No, only four wells with sixty eight acres of cultivated land were washed away.
- (c)

1945-46	784 acres
1946-47	716 acres
1947-48	716 acres
- (d)

1943-47	675 acres
1947-48	497 acres
- (e) and (f) Yes.
- (g) Relief will be granted where permissible under the rules.

### SCALES OF PAY OF POLICE CONSTABLES AND OFFICERS

245. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that police constables and other lower grade police officers sent a representation recently to the Inspector General Police East Punjab praying that their salaries be brought to the level of Delhi Police, if so, what action, if any, has been taken by the Government in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

First part—No.

Second part—Government have, however, recently received the scales of pay of constables and head constables.

### REFUND OF MONEY TAKEN POSSESSION OF BY THE POLICE WHEN ARRESTING HARNAM SINGH SON OF JAGAT SINGH.

246. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Harnam Singh son of Jagat Singh of village Sur Singh, Police Station Bhikewind, District Amritsar was arrested on the 7-7-47 under the provisions of the Arms Act by the Bhikewind Police;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that at the time of personal search of the accused, Rs. 300/- were taken into possession by the police;
- (c) whether this amount was deposited by the police in the Treasury at Kasur;
- (d) whether it is a fact that after the partition of the Punjab the case against the accused was not proceeded with and consequently he was discharged;
- (e) whether Government is aware of the fact that the accused was murdered some months ago and that his minor sons Mohana and Jagira through their aunt submitted a representation which was forwarded by me to the Superintendent of Police Amritsar vide my letter No. 318 dated the 30-12-48 for the refund of the amount referred to in part (b) above;
- (f) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government in the matter?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.



- (d) Harnam Singh accused was on bail and the decision of the case pending against him in Kasur (Pakistan) is not known.
- (e) Yes. Superintendent Police, Amritsar, duly received letter No. 318 dated the 30th December, 1948, from S. Sajjan Singh and returned the same to him in original vide Superintendent Police, Amritsar's No. 4135/C dated the 10th February, 1949.
- (f) A recent Inter-Dominion agreement has permitted the return of such deposits direct to the depositors by the two Dominions but the question of constituting a machinery to give effect to this and allied decisions is still under consideration. When this is finalized, the heirs will be able to get the money.

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**ARRANGEMENT OF DRINKING WATER IN THE FAMILY  
QUARTERS OF POLICE STATION PATTI.**

247. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 54, put on 15-3-48<sup>1</sup> will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether any action was taken by the authorities in regard to arrangements for the supply of drinking water within the premises of the family Police quarters attached to police station, Patti up till 20th February, 1949; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

First Part—Yes.

Second—Does not arise.

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**RE-ARREST OF S. JOGINDAR SINGH SUB-INSPECTOR**

248. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 36 put on 12-3-48,<sup>2</sup> will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the case of Sardar Jogindar Singh Sub-Inspector Police of Beas, District Amritsar, was not sent up for trial in the court;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the District authorities decided to proceed against him departmentally; if so, the date on which this decision was taken by them;
- (c) the date on which the notice to appear before the investigating officer was issued and served on him;
- (d) the date on which the charge-sheet was handed over to him;

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<sup>1</sup>Vide page 254 Vol. II East Punjab Assembly Debates

<sup>2</sup>Vide page 168 *Ibid.*

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :**

- (e) the date on which the evidence of the prosecution witnesses was recorded by the investigating officer;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the said S. Jogindar Singh was suspended after his arrest on 2nd October 1947 and is still under suspension;
- (g) if the answer to part (f) above be in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that he remained present in the Police lines as required by the Police Rules; if so, on what date he reported his first appearance in the Police Lines Amritsar;
- (h) whether it is a fact that he remained absent from the Police Lines during the period of his suspension; if so, for what period, and what action, if any, was taken against him for his absence;
- (i) whether the departmental enquiry against him has since been completed; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes, on 5.1.49.
- (c) Notices were issued on 10.11.48 and 12.3.49, but could not be served in spite of best efforts.
- (d) & (e) Do not arise.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) & (h) He is absent from the Police Lines since the date of his suspension. Action in respect of this absence will be taken on his appearance before the enquiring officer.
- (i) No, because of his absence.

**FAMILY ACCOMMODATION AT POLICE STATION  
PATTY, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

249. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 356, put on 21-10-48,<sup>1</sup> will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken so far to provide suitable family quarters attached to police station, Patti, District Amritsar, if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Does not arise.

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<sup>1</sup> Vide page 144 Vol III East Punjab Assembly Debates

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE SUR SINGH.

250. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 42 asked on 12. 3. 48,<sup>1</sup> will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the election of the office bearers of Small Town Committee, Sur Singh, has taken place; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Datt:**

The office—bearers of this Small Town Committee cannot be elected so long as the seats vacated by Muslims who have migrated remain un-filled. The local officers had not suggested the name of a single refugee for these vacancies. They have now been asked to do so and on receipt of their recommendations, the Commissioner will fill the seats by nomination and only thereafter can the office-bearers be elected.

### CASES OF REDEMPTION OF MORTGAGES AND FOR PRE-EMPTION IN KASUR TEHSIL BEFORE THE PARTITION.

251. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 134 put on 25-10-48,<sup>2</sup> will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the reply to this question is ready;
- (b) the total number of suits whose files have been transferred from Kasur or Lahore Courts to Amritsar District Courts;
- (c) the total amount, if any, that has been transferred from Imperial Bank at Kasur or Lahore to Imperial Bank, Amritsar, in connection with the suits pending in the Courts at Kasur or Lahore; if no amount has been transferred so far, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Man :**

- (a) No.
- (b) The information is not yet available. Pending cases regarding Preemption and Redemption of lands have not so far been received. Only decided cases have been received and those too without goshwaras and general register.
- (c) No amount has yet been transferred. The question will be considered on receipt of the records.

### COLLECTION OF COLLECTIVE FINE : ON CERTAIN VILLAGES AND URBAN LOCALITIES.

252. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 490 will the hon. Minister for Home

<sup>1</sup> Vide Page 170 Vol. II East Punjab Assembly debates.

<sup>2</sup> Vide Page 240 Vol. III East Punjab Assembly debates.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :**

and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount imposed as collective fines;
- (b) the total amount realised up till 31-1-49;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a part of collective fines have been remitted by the Government; if so, the names of the areas wherein the fines have been remitted;
- (d) whether any collective fines were recovered from certain areas up till now; if so, the names of the areas and the amount recovered from each such area;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to refund the amount realised so far; if not, the reasons for this discrimination?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Rs. 8,07,595.
- (b) Rs. 1,18,852.
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes. A statement is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>
- (e) The matter is still under consideration.

#### RENT OF HOUSES IN BOUNDARY VILLAGES OCCUPIED BY ARMED POLICE.

253. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 348<sup>2</sup> will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any house rent is being paid to the owners of the houses occupied by the Armed Police posts in the border villages of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur Districts;
- (b) the total amount paid to each of these districts in this behalf up till 31-1-49;
- (c) whether there is any house belonging to a non-muslim in Patti sub tehsil whose rent has not been paid by the Armed Police authorities, if so, the reasons thereof;
- (d) the date on which the first payment in this connection was made to the house owners after the occupation of the houses;
- (e) whether any non-muslim house owner was paid house rent within 6 months of the occupation of his house by the Armed Police authorities in any of the districts mentioned above; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the owners of these houses have been paid any interest for the period of delay, if so, what is the number of such house owners;

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library

<sup>2</sup> Vide page 63 of Vol. III East Punjab Assembly Debates

- (g) whether any of the houses belonging to non-muslims was requisitioned by the Government for the occupation of Armed Police posts if so, when;
- (h) whether rent was fixed by the Government of any of the houses belonging to non-muslims which are being occupied by the Armed Police at the time of their occupation if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No. The question of rent is being settled.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Yes, the P. W. D. have been asked to assess the rent.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No; necessary action is being taken.
- (f) and (g) No; do not arise.
- (h) No; the owners did not press for rent as the time when the PAP pickets on the border were located in 1947 was such that the general public for purposes of protection and safety helped the authorities in providing necessary accommodation considering it a national service. They have now been asked to claim rent for their houses.

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**PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF PENSION TO  
L. DURGA DASS OF JARANWALA.**

254. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 351,<sup>1</sup> will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the decision arrived at by the Government in regard to the payment of arrears of pension which was confiscated by the British Government for the political activities of L. Durga Dass a congress worker of Jaranwa a, District Lyallpur?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

The representation of Shree Krishan Lal son of L. Durga Das was examined in the light of the decisions taken by the cabinet but is regretted that his request cannot be acceded to as confiscated civil pensions can only be restored in favour of the pensioners themselves and not their descendants.

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**PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF PENSION TO L. DURGA DAS  
OF JARANWALA.**

255. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 351,<sup>1</sup> will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the decision arrived at by the Government in regard to the payment of arrears of the pension which was confiscated by the

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<sup>1</sup>Vide page 6, Vol III East Punjab Assembly Debates

British Government for the political activities of L. Durga Dass, a Congress worker of Jaranwala, district Lyallpur?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

The representation of Shree Krishan Lal son of L. Durga Das was examined in the light of the decisions taken by the cabinet but it is regretted that his request cannot be acceded to as confiscated civil pensions can only be restored in favour of the pensioners themselves and not their descendants.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR ACCUSED PERSONS IN POLICE STATIONS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

356. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the length, breadth and height of each of the police lock-ups of Amritsar district referred to in my starred question No. 550;
- (b) the number of the accused persons confined in each of the Police station lock-ups in Amritsar district on the 1st and the 15th October, November, December, 1948 and January and February, 1949;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the accommodation provided in the City Kotwali police lock-up, Amritsar is for eighteen persons only;
- (d) whether it is a fact that on the 4th January, 1949, seventy persons were confined in the said police lock-up at Kotwali, Amritsar; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the police lock-up of Civil Lines Police Station, Amritsar, is meant for eighteen men but on 8th January, 1949, twenty-eight accused were confined in this lock-up, if so, the reasons thereof;
- (f) the minimum space allowed to a single person in the police lock-up under the rules?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

#### FIXATION OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

257. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a ration of travelling allowance for the canal officers and a maximum amount of T. A. has been fixed for each officer of that Department;
- (b) the date since when this system has been introduced;



- (c) whether the system referred to above has resulted in saving to the Government; if so, to what extent;
- (d) whether this system of T. A. has been introduced in any other department of the Government also; if so, the result thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 1-3-1931.
- (c) First part—Yes.  
Second part—Plenty.
- (d) Rationing in one form or another does exist in other similarly placed Departments, i: e. minimum and maximum number of days for touring have been fixed and the like.

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**CANAL WATER TAWAN LEVIED ON VILLAGES OF SUB-TEHSIL PATTI DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

**258. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount levied as canal water tawan on the villages in the jurisdiction of sub-tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, during the period 31-7-47 to 31-12-48;
- (b) the name of the villages together with the amount of tawan levied on each village for the Tores for the period 31-7-47 to 30-6-48 and 1-7-48 to 31-12-48;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Patti sub-Tehsil being a border area there was comparatively greater lawlessness during the period 17-8-47 to 30-6-48 and the Government machinery was too weak to control situation and take care of the canals maintenance and repairs;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government proposes to examine all the cases which occurred between 31-7-47 and 30-6-48 and remit the Tawan, if not, the reasons thereof;
- (e) the main grounds on which the Tawan was levied for the period 1-7-48 to 31-12-48?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh .**

- (a) Rs. 11,402/13/-.
- (b) Information is placed on the table.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) No law and order was established by the end of November, 1947 and Government control completely restored.

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<sup>1</sup>Kept in the Library

# INSTRUCTIONS RE-CANCELLATION OF LANDS ALLOTTED AT MORE THAN ONE PLACE.

259. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued instructions to the district authorities that the allottees who may be found to have got land allotted to them at more than one place shall be prosecuted; if so, the date on which these instructions were issued;
- (b) the number of cases proceeded against in the district of Amritsar since the issue of these instructions up till 31-12-48;
- (c) the number of cases in which the accused were convicted by the court;
- (d) whether there was any case in the Amritsar Distt. in which prosecution was not made although the party was found to have land allotted in its favour in more than one place;
- (e) what action, if any, has been or is proposed to be taken in this case?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :**

Instructions were issued for cancellation of allotments taken at more than one place, but prosecutions have not been ordered. Prosecution is provided in the East Punjab Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act 1947 for making false declarations or statements for purposes of taking allotments or leases of any evacuee property. No separate instructions were either considered necessary or issued.

- (b) None.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No such cases came to notice.
- (e) Does not arise.

## EMPLOYMENT OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS IN THE PROVINCE.

260. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the Superintendents of jails who retired during the year 1947;
- (b) the age at which each of them retired;
- (c) the pension granted to each of them on their retirement;
- (d) the names of the Superintendents of jails who were sanctioned extensions during the year 1947 and 1948 respectively;

- (e) the age of each such officer on the date of extension given to him;
- (f) the names of the Superintendents of Jails who are to retire by 31-3-49;
- (g) the age of each of them on the date of their retirement;
- (h) the names of the Superintendents of jails who were re-employed after their retirement together with the dates on which each one of them was re-employed;
- (i) the age of each of them on the date of their retirement;
- (j) the period for which new contracts with them have been entered-into;
- (k) the reasons for their re-employment?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) None in East Punjab.
- (b) and (c) Do not arise.
- (d) 1947—None.  
1948—S. Raghunandan Singh.
- (e) 55 years.
- (f) None.
- (g) Does not arise.
- (h) Pandit Lal Chand from 28-3-1948 to 24-6-1948 and again from 15-1-1949.  
S. Raghunandan Singh from 1-3-1949.
- (i) Pandit Lal Chand 55 years and then 55 years 9 months 17 days. S. Raghunandan Singh 55½ years.
- (j) Six months each.
- (k) On account of the senior most Deputy Superintendents of Jails having been considered by the Public Service Commission not suitable for promotion and the paucity of Punjab Civil Service Officers.

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**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS,  
ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT.**

**261. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Secretary to Government East Punjab, Simla has received my letter dated 1-2-1949 containing allegations against a certain police officer of anti-corruption staff of the East Punjab Government; if so, whether he would place the same on the table;

**(Sardar Sajjan Singh)**

- (b) whether any enquiry has been made by the Government in the matter; if so, who conducted the inquiry; the date on which it commenced;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the investigating officer sent for me to give evidence by 5-3-1949; if so, the reasons for the same?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes. As the hon. Member knows the contents of the communication sent by him, no useful purpose will be served by placing it on the table.
- (b) Yes. The inquiry was conducted by the Special Inquiry Agency. Government have not enquired about the date on which the inquiry was started as they do not consider the particular date to be very material.
- (c) Government have no knowledge nor have they made any enquiry about this. If a date was fixed by the investigating officer by which the statement of the hon. Member was to be recorded, it was done in the interest of the expeditious disposal of the case.

CRIMINAL TRIBES IN SUB-TEHSIL PATTI, DISTRICT  
AMRITSAR.

262. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the tribes which have been declared as criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act within the jurisdiction of Sub-tehsil Patti, District Amritsar;
- (b) the total number of each of such tribes;
- (c) the total number of persons belonging to these tribes who have never been convicted for any offence since their births;
- (d) the total number of the persons who have not been convicted during the last 20, 15, 10 and 5 years, respectively;
- (e) the total number of the persons who were convicted during the last 15, 10 and 5 years, together with the nature of offences and the sentence passed by the Court of Law on them?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** I regret that the reply of this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

**DISPOSAL OF MURDER, RAPE AND DACOITY CASES  
IN THE PROVINCE.**

263. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of cases registered at the Police Stations of each district of the province from (i) 1-1-46 to 31-12-46; (ii) 1-1-47 to 31-12-47, (iii) 1-1-48 to 31-12-48;
- (b) the number of the cases referred to in part (a) above which were challaned during the period mentioned above;
- (c) the number of the accused persons taken into custody in connection with these cases during the aforesaid period yearly;
- (d) the number of murder, rape and dacoity cases registered during the aforesaid period yearly;
- (e) the number of accused persons challaned and convicted for the cases referred to in part (d) above yearly during the aforesaid period?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh** :

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). A statement is laid on the table. <sup>1</sup>

**DIFFICULTIES OF THE ACCUSED PERSONS PUT UP IN  
THE POLICE LOCK-UP, PATTI.**

264. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that all the accused who are arrested in connection with non-bailable offences by Khaira, Waltoha and Patti police stations of Amritsar district are sent up for trial before the Resident Magistrate, Patti;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is no judicial lock-up at Patti for the confinement of the accused referred to in part (a) above;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these accused are confined in each of the Police Station lock ups during their trial;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the facilities such as morning and evening walks, bathing, washing of clothes, interviews, liberty to take eatables from their relatives or friends which are enjoyed by the accused confined in jail or judicial lock-up are being refused to them;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the aforesaid accused are not taken out of the police lock-ups for answering the call of nature within the premises of the police stations;

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<sup>1</sup> Kept in the Library.

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- (f) whether it is a fact that the Sikh accused are not taken out of the police lock-up for washing their hair once a week;
- (g) if the answer to parts (b) to (e) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter to remove the aforesaid difficulties of the accused;
- (h) whether any rules have been framed by the Government for the treatment of such accused in the police lock-ups, if so, whether a copy of the same would be laid on the table of the House?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes, except those triable by Section 30 Magistrate who tries them at Amritsar Headquarters.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Not always. They are kept in lock-ups of Police Station under orders of the Magistrate only when there is no accommodation in District Jail Amritsar.
- (d) No. All facilities are given to the accused confined in Police lock-ups except morning and evening walks which are available only in Jail.
- (e) Yes. Pots and pans are supplied in lock-ups and these are kept clean.
- (f) Yes, water is supplied inside the lock-up for the purpose.
- (g) The matter of providing a judicial lock-up at Patti is under consideration.
- (h) Yes. A copy of Police Rule 26.4(4) as reconstructed by correction slip No. 451 dated the 14th May, 1942 is placed on the table.

**POLICE RULE 26. 4(1) is reconstructed as follows :—**

'26. 4:4) Every under-trial prisoner in the lock-up unable to provide himself with sufficient bedding shall be supplied with such bedding as may be necessary.

Ordinarily 1 blanket and 1 munj or bhabbar mat shall be issued to each prisoner in the summer. In the winter 3 blankets shall be issued for each prisoner. For this purpose a sufficient supply of blankets and munj or bhabbar mats shall be obtained from the District Magistrate and maintained for use in lock-ups and issued when required.

Private bedding may be supplied by relatives or friends of the prisoner. All such bedding shall be carefully examined by the Police Officers in charge who shall return the same when the prisoner is released or remanded to judicial custody. When private bedding is supplied, a report to this effect shall be entered in the station daily diary.



Jail rules permit the use of beds and provide for special sanitary and bathing facilities for A and B class convicts. Such facilities are not available in all Police Stations but they should be provided for better class prisoners in Police custody so far as is possible. Endeavours should be made to confine better class prisoners in Police Stations which possess amenities of this kind and to segregate better class from ordinary prisoners.'

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**RESTORATION OF FORFEITED PROPERTIES OF PERSONS WHO SUFFERED THIS LOSS FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.**

**265. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to restore forfeited properties of all patriots who had to suffer this loss for political offences;
- (b) whether any decision has been arrived at by the Government about the cases forwarded by me on 7-3-49 regarding the restoration of the properties of the following persons confiscated in connection with the 1st Lahore Conspiracy case of 1914 decided on 13-9-15:—

1. S. Bishan Singh s/o S. Kesar Singh, village Dadar, District Amritsar.

2. S. Hazara Singh s/o S. Bela Singh, Village Dadar, District Amritsar.

3. Babu Wasakha Singh s/o Dial Singh Village Dadar, District Amritsar.

4. S. Bishan Singh son of S. Jawala Singh, Village Dadar, District Amritsar.

5. S. Kala Singh son of S. Sarmukh Singh, Village Jagat Pura, District Amritsar.

6. S. Chanan Singh son of S. Bal Singh, Village Boor Chand, District Amritsar.

7. S. Atma Singh son of Jhanda Singh, Village Khasra, District Amritsar.

8. S. Harnam Singh son of Sant Singh, Village Khasra, Distt. Amritsar.

9. Baba Kesar Singh son of S. Bhoop Singh, Village Thathgarh, District Amritsar.

10. S. Lall Singh son of S. Mehan Singh, Village Bhoora, Distt. Amritsar.

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) Yes.

(b) These applications along with other numerous similar petitions are being examined. The forfeiture in question having taken place, considerable time ago, lot of factual material is required to be secured before a decision can be taken. The matter is under consideration.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### AGRICULTURE

**Minister for Finance (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal**

**Dutt):** I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70, 71, 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 40 Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved.—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70, 71, 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50, in respect of 40 Agriculture.

**Pandit Mohan Lal ;** Sir, I suggest that a time limit should be fixed for speeches, as there are several hon. Members who want to participate in the debate on this demand.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have got out motions in the name of 8 Members. But how much time will the hon. Minister require for making a reply?

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** One hour.

**Mr. Speaker .** I think this is too much, because we have only two hours at our disposal as guillotine is to be applied at 5 p.m. I feel that the hon. Minister should have 40 minutes and the remaining 80 minutes be distributed among the hon. Members who have given notices of cut motions. This will mean ten minutes for each speaker. I call upon Chaudhri Jagdish Chander to make his speech.

**Chaudhri Jagdish Chander:** (Karnal North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sir, the demand for agricultural development aggregates to Rs. 70, 71, 500. I think we will not be able to achieve considerable progress in the field of agricultural development even after passing this heavy demand. If we closely study this demand we shall find that a greater portion of the amount is covered by the salaries and travelling allowances of the officers. The expenditure has been

apportioned under the following heads :—

Tools and implements	...	...	Rs. 19,21,000
Seeds	...	...	Rs. 28,49,000
Agricultural Research	...	...	Rs. 12,82,170
Agricultural Education	...	...	Rs. 1,36,000
Boring Operations	...	...	Rs. 2,19,000
Farms	...	...	Rs. 2,69,000
Direction and Superintendence...	...	...	Rs. 4 40,000

This is rather strange that the sum of Rs. 1,36,000 only has been appropriated for Agricultural Education, whereas 'Direction and Superintendence' involves an expenditure of Rs. 4,40,000. I fail to understand why this top-heavy expenditure is being incurred under this head. It would have been much better if this amount had been ear-marked for agricultural education. It appears that the Government have paid scant attention to the Department of Agriculture and the people also evince little interest in agricultural work. Generally speaking people have aversion for manual labour and think it below their dignity to follow agricultural pursuits. All this expenditure is being incurred in an haphazard way. Under the head "Tools and implements" the sum of Rs. 19,21,000 has been shown to be spent without any real benefit accruing to the cultivator. A large share of iron quota is mainly allotted to the industrialists and that generally finds its way to the black market. In spite of the fact that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government, it has failed to adopt strong measures to put a stop to black marketing. The iron quota which is sanctioned for the manufacture of agricultural implements is also generally sold in the black market and fictitious thumb-impressions are affixed in the register maintained in this behalf. There is not a single genuine transaction which might show that the iron was sold to the manufacturers of agricultural implements. The pity is that the Government servants are instrumental in encouraging black-marketing.

Besides, proper attention is not paid to the sinking of wells. The villagers who live at a remote distance of the city have to encounter tremendous difficulties for obtaining the supply of bricks. At the time of sinking the wells they are forced to buy bricks from the nearest source of supply at blackmarket rates instead of getting at cheaper rates from the city situated at a long distance. I confess that the intention of the Government is good but the poor zamindars have to suffer on account of the mal-administration of the Government. Moreover, ammonium sulphate which is used for purposes of manuring the land is imported from foreign countries but the cultivators do not derive any benefit therefrom. Seeds are not made available to the cultivators. In my opinion it would be

(Ch. Jagdish Chander)

better if the zamindars make use of rubbish and cow-dung etc., as manure instead of ammonium sulphate. This rubbish and cow-dung should be stored in a pit which should be exposed to free air and sunshine. This would form the best manure for the land. It appears that this manure is not utilised to the best advantage in the villages but create insanitary conditions to the detriment of public health. I am sorry to say that in spite of bringing the matter to the notice of the Health Department, it has failed to improve the sanitation in the villages. It was the duty of the Health Department to make some arrangement in this regard, but it is a pity that neither this Department nor the Agriculture Department has paid any heed to it.

Then, there is the question of tractor cultivation. It is a very expensive process and in my opinion the amount spent on it will not be repaid in the shape of better and more produce. I would suggest that we should not cultivate with the help of tractors and should continue our old system of using oxen and plough. If proper attention had been paid by the Departments concerned, we would not have been faced with acute shortage of food and our respected leader, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, would not have been compelled to say that we would rather starve than go on importing it. The use of tractors will bring about un-employment in the villages. We are already confronted with it in the shape of industrial un-employment and we should not add to it by bringing about rural un-employment. For this reason also, we should stick to the old system of cultivating land with the help of oxen and ploughs.

**Mehra Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural), (*Hindustani*): It is a matter of great pleasure that we have been provided an opportunity of discussing a subject of great importance. No subject can be more important than that of agriculture. In our country it has always occupied the foremost place. There is a saying —

ਉਤਮ ਖੇਤੀ ਮਧਮ ਵਪਾਰ  
ਨੀਚ ਚਾਕਰੀ ਭੀਖ ਗੰਵਾਰ ,  
उत्तम खेती मधम व्यापार,  
नीच चाकरी भीख गंवार ॥

It means that agriculture is the best profession and trade is next to it. Service has been considered as a low profession, while the most worthless people take to begging. Everything in our country depends on agriculture. I am therefore, thankful to the

hon. Minister-in-charge for giving us an opportunity of discussing this important matter.

What is the reason that in spite of the best efforts of the hon. Minister and our talented Director of Agriculture, we are not producing enough? In my opinion the primitive methods of cultivation which we use are responsible for it. We should try to improve these. If we do not pay necessary attention to this matter, we shall not be able to make up the deficit in food-grains. As Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru said, 'this shortage threatens our very existence'. If this problem is not faced properly, the forces of destruction, violence and exploitation, which have raised their head in the country will find a good opportunity of flourishing. Hon. Members know the conditions prevailing in the world. If war breaks out, worse conditions will prevail in our country than was the case in Bengal during the last famine. If we fail to receive food-grains from other countries we will find ourselves in a condition in which Bengal famine will pale into insignificance. Our national Government would be responsible for this state of affairs to a great extent. Crores of rupees are being spent on importing food-grains and long-staple cotton from foreign countries. If a part of this amount were spent in improving the system of cultivation in the country, this would yield very good results.

Before partition, the Punjab was proud of being regarded as the granary of India. The best Agricultural College in India was situated at Lyallpur. There was a number of rich garden-colonies which now form part of Pakistan. The cotton which was produced in the United Punjab was almost sufficient for the textile industry of our country. About eighteen per cent of cotton producing area and about ninety six and a half per cent of the soil, which produced long staple cotton are now in the West Punjab. There are no garden-colonies, nor an Agricultural College, of the standard of Lyallpur College, in our Province. We should try to meet all these needs, as early as possible. There is no lack of resources in the East Punjab. The difficulty, so far, has been, that the resources of the East Punjab were used for developing the West Punjab. We should not go on lamenting at what has been done in the past, but should try to develop our province with all its available resources. If this is done our province will not only become self-sufficient but will be in a position to help other parts of the country.

The first thing to which I wish to draw the pointed attention of the Government is the importance of the consolidation of holdings. A Bill was passed in this connection but the work of consolidation has been very slow. I shall request the Government to act with greater speed so that the holdings become economical. We cannot delay this matter for long. Similarly the completion of Bhakra Scheme will take five or six years more. We can not afford to wait



(Mehta Ranbir Singh)

Then, Sir, I wish to refer to the necessity of good manure. I do not propose to repeat what I said during the discussion on supplementary demand. When, I was speaking about it, the hon. Minister concerned remarked that the Government had increased the subsidy for manure from twenty to twenty five per cent. On going through the Volume of 'New Expenditure', I find that it has been withdrawn. Wherever green manures are supplied free, this subsidy has been discontinued.

I regret to say that the amount which the Government of India gives us by way of subsidy for purchasing agricultural implements is not being wholly utilised for this purpose. Now as I have very little time at my disposal. I shall not go into the details of my suggestions and shall place them before the House in a skeleton form.

More money should be spent by the Government on this industry. An expenditure of two annas per capita is too small to produce any useful results. We should try to emulate the example of countries like America where a sum of Rs. 80 is spent per head.

The head of department should be a technical and not a non-technical man. A non-technical man can render no useful advice.

A committee consisting of the hon. Minister concerned, some hon. Members of this House and experts should be immediately appointed to consider different schemes regarding improvement in this industry.

Arrangements should be made to put 25 lakh acres of cultivable waste land under the plough.

A number of research institutes for advising on different varieties of manure and suitability of soil for different crops should be set up.

Lastly, fair markets should be provided to agriculturists for disposing of their produce. It is really sad to find that the zamindar gets only ten annas for his sugar cane while the factories get it at one rupee and twelve annas. This means that one rupee and two annas are swallowed by the middle men.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** ; (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban] (Punjabi) : Sir, agriculture is the most popular profession in our country but I am sorry to say that we have not treated it like an industry but just as a mode of life. And this is the reason why we have not been able to develop it to any appreciable extent. We as private individuals have never made any effort to advance the cause of this industry nor has our Government ever cared to undertake any new and useful schemes to augment our agricultural produce. The inevitable result is that the country is faced with an acute shortage of food which has to be imported from outside. The country spends a colossal



is a great drain on the dollar resources of the country. This amount should have been as a matter of fact spent on the import of capital goods, that is, machinery etc. and not on food grains.

Sir, the Punjab, I mean the United Punjab was the granary of India. In comparison with the West Punjab we have a very small area of cultivable land in the East Punjab and so far as canal irrigated area is concerned we have very little of it. In the United Punjab we had 137 lakh acres of canal irrigated land whereas in the East Punjab we have only thirty lakh acres. Out of the remaining cultivable land we have only 135 lakh acres against 200 lakh acres in the West Punjab. This shortage of total cultivable land and particularly canal irrigated land has resulted in food deficit for our Province. We are in a position to produce only 23 75 lakh tons of food grains whereas our consumption is a little over 26 lakh tons. This leaves a deficit of about 2.25 lakh tons in all food grains. But if we take into account shortage in food grains, which we actually consume e. g. wheat, rice etc. the total deficit comes to about 5.25 lakh tons. This is due to the fact that we are surplus in barley and gram, but are very much in deficit in wheat and rice. But I regret to say that during the past one year and a half our Government has not moved even its little finger to increase the produce of food grains which we need. The food grains are being imported at such exorbitant prices that we cannot continue these purchases for any great length of time. In these circumstances the Prime Minister of India declared that come what may we are not going to import food from abroad after 1951. But I say if this decision is to be respected and translated into action we must step up our food production and make good the deficiency of about five lakh tons of grains. Obviously there are two ways of achieving this end. In the first instance the land which is already under cultivation should be made to yield more and secondly the land which is not under cultivation should be put under the plough. For increasing our produce we can have recourse to four or five methods.

The most essential thing which can help us to produce more is water. Unfortunately canal irrigated area in the East Punjab is very small and the Chahi area is also less than 20 lakh acres. We should somehow try to obtain more water. In my opinion if we have recourse to the persian wheels or tube wells we can make much headway in our programme of growing more food. But it is a pity that our Government has not so far undertaken any new schemes of supplying water for irrigation purposes in the immediate future. Despite the fact that Government of India approved of a scheme in accordance with which 50 per cent expenditure on tube wells was to be paid by the zamindars and the remaining 50 per cent by Government, nothing has absolutely been done in this

[ Sardar Ujjal Singh ]

direction. Not a single tube well has been sunk under this scheme. No doubt Government has helped to set up about 300 persian wheels but such a measure is not likely to go a very long way in producing any tangible results. The Bhakra scheme is a long term scheme which no doubt should be pushed with the greatest zeal but for quick results we must resort to sinking of wells.

Another method for increasing production is the use of manure or fertilizers. Fertilizers are of two kinds i.e. organic and inorganic. I suggest that the Government should arrange for the preparation of organic compost. I am greatly pleased to learn that the Government is about to pass a legislation in this connection. Compost is very helpful in increasing the fertility of the soil and it is estimated that if the whole of refuse in towns is put to proper use it can help produce lakhs of tons of more food grains. We should, therefore, make it obligatory for the zamindars to use compost in their fields. In the West Punjab we were using 'Chhitti' (dry twigs of cotton plant) for preparing compost and I think a similar process can be popularized here in the East Punjab. Besides this we should employ green manure in the nehri and chahi areas. For this kind of manure hemp and 'guara' were used in the West Punjab and the same should be done here if seeds of these two crops are supplied to the zamindars by the Government free of cost.

Now I come to inorganic manure. It is indeed surprising to find that when 50 thousand tons of ammonium sulphate is wanted for the Province at present and 3 lakh tons when Bhakra scheme is completed, only 608 tons of this fertilizer have been made available to the zamindars this year on the subsidised basis.

Besides, I would like to point out that a large quantity of food grains is destroyed every year in our country, on account of the locust and other agricultural pests. I may inform the House that no less than 30 million tons of food grains are estimated to be destroyed in India every year in this way. It is, therefore, necessary that highly qualified persons should be appointed on the work of research on these agricultural pests. The Government, at present, does not spend much on its research schemes.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** They are only show schemes.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** No research scheme can achieve any result unless money is spent on it. The Government should, therefore, liberally spend on the research work, in order to cope with the problem of agricultural pests.

Another point that I would like to place before the House is regarding the improved seeds. In this connection, the Government should do two things. Firstly there is the question of the production of improved seeds, through research work, and secondly these improved seeds should be popularized among the agriculturists and

produced such improved seeds of cotton and sugarcane. I would like to point out that, not only the yield of this improved cotton was more than that of ordinary cotton, but also it fetched better price. In our Province at present that improved cotton is not grown and the sugarcane is also of a poor variety. The Government should conduct research for this purpose and should start more seed farms, in order to popularize the improved seeds among the people.

Apart from this, the Government should popularize improved methods of farming. I know there are people who are of the opinion that our old methods are quite good, but I think that ours is the age of tractor-farming and we cannot increase production by using the same old plough and other implements. In our Province we find that the people are in the same old ruts. They do not practise rotation of crops, nor do they use improved implements. So much so, that they do not use even the improved Hindustani plough. These ploughs were in common use in the West Punjab.

All these things can be done only if the Government places sufficient funds at the disposal of the Agriculture Department and its officials work with a missionary zeal.

Next, Sir, I would like to point out that 25 lakh acres of land in our Province is lying as waste jungle. The whole of this waste land whether it is owned by the Government or any body else should be brought under cultivation. I know that the Government has formulated a scheme for the reclamation of only five lakh acres of this land in five years. It will be better if nearly the whole of it is reclaimed. This step can go a long way in solving our food problem.

For the implementation of all these schemes, it is necessary that the agriculture department should be given a higher status and sufficient funds should be placed at its disposal. It is only then that the research work can be effectively carried on. I know most of the schemes do not fructify on account of the red-tapism prevailing in the Secretariat. It is harmful to the interests of our Province. I would, therefore, submit that this Department should be expanded and its Director should be promoted to the rank of a secretary to the Government. The present Director Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh is a man of great ability and experience who knows his job well. We are lucky to have him in this province and we should make full use of him.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural), (Hindustani) : Sir, I am greatly astonished to find that whereas there has been no time-limit for the speakers during all these days a time limit has, now, been fixed in regard to discussion on agriculture

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** [Rohtak Central, General, Rural]

(*Hindustani*) : Sir, I am greatly astonished to find that whereas there has been no time limit for the speakers during all these days, a time limit has now been fixed in regard to discussion on Agriculture. I want to place four things before the House. The first point is that mere talk serves no purpose for the Agriculturists. On the other hand, they have to toil in the burning heat of the sun to achieve anything. This hard labour can bear any fruit only when they get good quantities of seed for sowing in their land. It is, therefore, necessary that improved seeds should be made available to them. Without this thing the Agriculture Department cannot succeed in its purpose. The mere delivering of speeches on the floor of the House can serve no useful purpose. Some concrete steps should be taken to provide improved seed to the farmers. The Government will do well to form a Committee for this purpose. This Committee should arrange public meetings in the villages and should impress upon the people the desirability of using improved seed. Mere Office work is useless unless it is accompanied by something practical.

My second point is in regard to the reclamation of land. Certain hon. Members have said that new land should be brought under cultivation. But I may submit, Sir, that old land can become more productive, if it is irrigated at the proper time and the seed used is of good quality. I went to the Agriculture Farm at Rohtak and asked for the seed of cotton. But it was not available there. At another time, I asked for the seed of 'Jawar'; again it was not available. On my inquiring about it, I was told that the Government had fixed the control price of Jawar at nine or ten rupees a maund while the people sold it at 13 rupees. Thus they did not sell their Jawar at cheaper rates. It would be better if the Government were to consult the Agriculturists before fixing up the control prices of such commodities. I wonder if the farmers will continue to follow their profession, in view of such low prices.

**Mr. Speaker :** But they have been selling them at 26 rupees a maund.

**Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** People say that, instead of toiling in the fields for nothing, they should try to get a quota of iron or something else ; that would be more profitable. As regards the rate of control of prices, I may submit what people in the villages think about it. They say that their food grains will be sold at controlled rates and a shop bearing the name Jai Ram Dass Daulat Ram has been opened for the purpose at Delhi, and that it has brought down the rate from 26 rupees a maund to 13 rupees. I may assure the Government that the Agriculturists cannot work whole-heartedly unless they have got full liberty to sell their produce. Besides, if

rrigation facilities are extended to my district, the production of foodgrains can surely be increased. The prices of foodgrains should be fixed in accordance with the high cost of implements and other things required by the farmers.

The manure from the towns is dangerous for human health. It consists of filth of towns and cities and so it contains germs of various diseases like tuberculosis. Besides this, there is another disadvantage. I happened to see a village near Delhi where this manure was being used by the people. Small pieces of iron, tin and glass were lying scattered in the fields. They were a source of inconvenience to the farmers. So we do not want such manure which, instead of being useful, proves harmful to the farmers. It would be better if we are left to use the manure we are at present using. Officers of the Agriculture Department, who put forth such proposals and schemes have in fact no practical knowledge of the conditions prevailing in our villages. They go to foreign countries and get degrees. But an ordinary farmer has more practical experience than these scholars. I am not totally against the introduction of new methods of farming. Of course, tractors are useful and we in India may try to bring them into use. But what I mean to say is that although we can sow wheat by their help, yet we cannot reap the harvest with them without at least some disadvantage to the chaff. Chaff is a precious thing to the farmer. Cattle mainly depend upon it for their fodder. A farmer loves two things most—his land and his cattle. He can do without all other things but he must have plenty of milk. I do not stand in the way of introduction of machinery; but we must make arrangements to ensure that farmers' cattle wealth is not adversely affected.

These are some of the sufferings of the poor kisans. Our Government should pay due attention to them. In my district, people say that although agriculturists contribute liberally to the provincial exchequer, they do not get in return as many facilities as the urban population enjoys. In my opinion, no further burden should be placed on the poor farmer. Land revenues should not be increased. The urban people work for fixed hours and after that they can have leisure and peace of mind. But the villagers have to work day and night. Their life is full of worries and anxieties. Even in rainy season they have to go out to work after rain.



[Chaudhri Badlu Ram]

at nights. They usually come across snakes on their way. They lead a hard and risky life. Our Government should pay more attention towards the provision of proper facilities to the rural population. Here I may bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that in the villages the paths and by-paths, being no man's property, are neglected by all, with the result that hardships are caused to the kisans. The department should move in the matter and get the paths cleared and properly maintained.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, the main point in all the speeches that have been delivered today in this House is that there is a shortage of food grains in the Province. The main cause of this is partition of the Province. Had there been no import of wheat from outside and abundance of grain here, there would have been a famine this year. But thank God it has been averted. There is a misconception in the minds of the Ministers about the important portfolio of Agriculture. All of them, it appears, attach no importance to it although it should be considered an important one. One of my hon. Friends has mentioned that the hon. Ministers prefer that portfolio which give them powers of dealing with quotas of cement, etc. But in my opinion, agriculture should be given its due importance. At present our Government is paying little attention towards it. Very little is being spent on schemes of agriculture. If it is calculated the amount spent on production of food comes to four annas per head. The Honourable Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru has declared in the Indian Parliament that provinces should try to be self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains by the year 1951. The Government of India proposes to stop all imports of foodgrains from that year. It appears to be a difficult problem. At present there is a deficit of five lakh tons. The population is increasing. Unless we bend all our energies to the task, it appears to be difficult of achievement. Government should introduce new methods of cultivation, supply good seeds at cheap rates and provide facilities for the supply and repair of agricultural implements. Small tractors, which can be easily managed by petty landlords, should be supplied at cheap rates so as to be easily available to the ordinary farmers. Help should be given to the farmers to sink new wells and to repair old wells which are now lying in a dilapidated condition. When help is being extended to



new schemes, old and indigenous ways of agriculture should also be encouraged. More work should be taken out of the officers of the departments and they should have practical experience in farming. But there are difficulties in the way. I gave about eight or ten acres of land for a farm. But the scheme had to be dropped because no electric supply could be had. While in urban areas people can get electric power without any difficulty the rural population is deprived of the benefits of electric power. I would urge upon the Government to find out ways and means of making arrangements for the supply of cheap electric power to the rural areas so that tube wells may be sunk.

Now I come to gardening. Previously, in Punjab colonies zamindars who laid gardens were exempted from the land revenue and were given rewards also. Government should encourage people to lay gardens. I would request the Government to give lands to zamindars at comparatively less prices for laying gardens and should also exempt them from land revenue. If this is done, I am sure zamindars would be in a position to plant many varieties of fruit trees. Government, instead of working out schemes regarding fruit growing industries in Kulu, should also make it a point to encourage zamindars by supplying various kinds of fruit plants, etc., to lay such gardens in other districts of the province. I am constrained to remark that Government has not encouraged the zamindars to lay fruit gardens in the districts of Jullundur, Ludhiana, Rohtak, Karnal, and in other districts of the province. Government should remove all the difficulties which the zamindars are facing in growing fruit gardens in the various districts of the province.

Further, I wish to submit that the scattered holdings of land have not been consolidated so far. At present, after the Muslim zamindars have left for Pakistan, there is no difficulty in the consolidation of land. My hon. Friend, Mehta Ranbir Singh, has also, in the course of his speech, laid stress on the point that the work in connection with the land holdings has not been started by the Government. I am of the opinion that in the absence of consolidated holdings, tractors and other modern implements of cultivation will not serve any useful purpose. Government should make it a point to start this work immediately. The modern implements will not serve any useful purpose for a zamindar who owns

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

small holdings in two or more villages. If he is given land at one place, I am sure, he will be in a position to devote more time to his land and will thus be in a position to produce more foodgrains. Government should also make implements of cultivation available to people at comparatively less rates. Seeds should also be made available to them in time. In spite of the changed conditions, iron, seeds and other requirements of zamindars are being sold at very high rates. Government should make it a point to make these articles available to them at very reasonable prices.

In the end, I would like to suggest that Government Farms should be improved, so that zamindars may also feel encouraged to produce foodgrains of better quality.

**Thakur Dalip Singh** (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the Department of Agriculture is a very old department and there has always been a separate Minister for this department. But I am constrained to remark that there has not been any change for the better in the conditions of the zamindars. Today they are living under the same conditions under which they were living before. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Either the district officials or the officials of this department have not taken any pains for improving the condition of the zamindars or the fault lies with the zamindars for not properly carrying out the instructions for their own betterment. It is just possible that it may be due to the age-old practices employed by the zamindars for bringing their land under cultivation and for laying their fruit gardens. Old methods continue to be employed by the zamindars for cultivation purposes. What I wish to point out is that times are changing at a rapid pace and all the countries are heading towards peace and prosperity and I know it for certain that our province is also bound to advance towards peace and prosperity. Our province is sure to advance agriculturally as my hon. Friend, Giani Kartar Singh, who is a real well-wisher of the zamindars, happens to be the Minister-in-charge of this department and also when Sardar Lal Singh happens to be the Director of this Department. If the conditions of the zamindars are not improved even under the able guidance of the hon. Minister and the Director of Agriculture, then the fate of the province in general and the zamindars in particular would be sealed for all time to come.

At this stage I need not say what should be done and what should not be done. I shall leave it to the hon. Minister and the officials of this department who are fully aware of these things. Moreover my hon. Friends who have already expressed themselves fully on the demand now before the House, have already focussed the attention of the Government on those points. I would therefore like to focus the attention of the Government on certain matters regarding my district. It will not be out of place to mention here that my district is quite different from other districts. The climate and the methods of irrigation of my district are quite different from other districts.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** And from facial point of view too.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** I am really thankful to the hon. Member for this remark. Facially, too we are quite different as we have better features than my hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth. Sir, I wish to make a few observations about the supply of seeds. I am constrained to remark that seeds are not made available to us in time. Usually seeds are made available to us when the sowing season is already over. Those officials should be severely dealt with who do not make seeds available to us in time. I would request the hon. Minister to pay his special attention towards this point and thus make seeds available to us in time.

I wish to make a few submissions about irrigation. Subsidies are being given by the Government to zamindars for digging wells. I wish to point out that the construction of such wells in my district would involve a much higher expenditure than in the other districts. We have to use stone-bricks and have at the same time to dig deep into the ground but this is not the case with the other districts where they have neither to dig very deep into the ground nor do they require the stone-bricks. I would request the Government to keep these facts in view before granting subsidies for constructing wells. Moreover, more subsidies should be given to the people of my district. Grave injustice has been done to them, by granting only a few subsidies in their favour for this purpose. It is proposed to sink 2,000 wells in the year 1949-50 and I would request the Government to grant us subsidy for at least 150 wells as this is our due share.

Now about the agricultural implements. Cultivators are badly in need of these implements. I have no hesitation in saying this and I make bold to submit that so far as the distribution of

iron and agricultural implements is concerned, these essential requirements have not been made available to the cultivators of my district. In fact, the very agricultural implements and the iron which are meant for distribution amongst the cultivators of my district are sold to them in black market at abnormal prices. In this connection, I would like to suggest that iron and agricultural implements should be distributed amongst the zamindars through the Co-operative Department or the co-operative societies.

Further I wish to make a few submissions about the seed farms. There are very few seed farms in my district. There are also experimental farms over there but none of these farms is self-sufficient. Their expenditure far exceeds their income. I would like to suggest that minimum expenditure and maximum production should be the guiding principle in running the Government farms. If this is done, the owners of private farms would also get encouraged to follow the same principle and thus by spending very little they will be in a position to produce more in their own interest. I do not want to speak on the research farms as it has been experienced that these farms have not proved productive.

Sir, my district can produce a lot of fruit, only if the Government tries to encourage this industry. Its climate is excellent for the growth of this industry. Rainfall is ample. There is no dearth of water. Kulu is already famous for its fruits. There is a Government Fruit Farm in my district, but I regret to point out that it is not supplying seeds and plants to the zamindars who want to take to fruit-growing industry. Government should encourage this industry. It will not only prove beneficial to the local farmers but the people of the whole province would be able to get fruit at cheaper rates. Government can encourage it by supplying good seeds and plants to the growers. The climate is suitable for growing almond, walnut, apple, apricot and 'alucha' trees.

Now I want to draw the attention of the Government to another matter, with which the Agriculture Department is directly concerned. Bee-keeping industry can prove a great success in my district. There are two Government Farms, in which this industry has been started but the total out-turn of honey produced in them is very small. I would suggest that this industry should be encouraged. Zamindars should be advised to start it on the basis of co-operative system, because it will prove very lucrative. Side by

side with this, Government should form some scheme for the development of fisheries in our district. Already there are many ravines, nullahs and lakes where fish is found in abundance. I would suggest to the Government to construct ponds and adopt other methods for development of fisheries. Again, the climate of our district is suitable for growing medicinal herbs. Government should pay attention to this matter also. By establishing an experimental farm for growing herbs, it should show the way to the local farmers, so that we may not have to continue importing them from abroad.

There is another important matter, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. It pertains to agricultural propaganda. It is a well-known fact that lectures do not impress the illiterate farmers very much. The most effective agencies of propaganda in rural areas are in fact the fairs and the 'mandis'. They used to be very much in vogue sometime back but I regret to point out that not a single show or fair has been held in our district for the last two years. I think the Agriculture Department should not neglect this time-honoured practice of holding shows and fairs. Holding of fruit and vegetable shows and the award of prizes to the farmers for the best produce, prove a great source of encouragement to them to produce better quality fruits and vegetables next year.

Lastly, I would again stress the great importance of the scheme of consolidation of land holdings and request the Government to take immediate steps to implement it, lest this urgent agrarian reform should go into cold storage again.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Punjab*): Sir, the Punjab has always been known as an agricultural province. Before the partition, it used to be called "the granary of India" and the best producing area of rice and cotton—especially the latter which it used to export in very large quantities. That is not all. Before the Partition, the Punjab was also known for its milch cattle. It was after feeding on the milk of this cattle, that our young-men used to win laurels on the battlefield and make a mark for themselves. Even today, more than 50% of the Major-Generals in the Army are Punjabis. (*Cheers*)

Sir, before saying anything about what we have gained through Partition, I would like to recount what we have lost as a result of it. Through Partition, we have lost the best Agricultural College



[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

and Research Institute in the whole of Asia. We have lost 98% of the areas which produced long staple cotton in the whole of the Punjab and the best kind of rice. By losing canal colonies, we have lost 80 % of the total canal-irrigated areas of the Punjab. The land that has come to our share is comparatively very inferior. A large portion of it is not level. Moreover, whatever good land we have in East Punjab is to be found in fragments of two or four bighas scattered in different places.

After the Partition, the Agriculture Department had to begin its work practically from a scratch. We were, however, fortunate in that Sardar Lal Singh agreed to take charge of this department as its head. While heads of some other departments have got promotions and higher grades, Sardar Lal Singh has suffered a loss in his emoluments by agreeing to the transfer of his services to this department. Now I would like to give a brief review of the activities of this department during the last one and a half years.

Today, the land in this province is divided into small fragments. This House has already passed legislation regarding consolidation of agricultural land holdings and it is hoped steps will shortly be taken to put it into effect. But consolidation alone will not do. Sloping land has also to be levelled if the condition of agriculture is to be improved.

Then comes the problem of irrigation. Bhakra Dam would take a few years more and so long as it is not complete, it would be difficult to solve this problem satisfactorily. The Government has, however, given full consideration to the problem of irrigation. It will not be out of place to mention that in the course of the last year, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs was distributed among the cultivators in the form of *taccavi* loans for sinking of percolation wells. Provision for Rs. 17½ lakhs has also been made on this account in the Budget for the next year. The hon. Member from Ludhiana has said that a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs only has been provided for the scheme for the sinking of percolation wells.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Is it not a fact that only 300 wells have so far been completed ?

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang :** If my hon. Friend were to look into the Budget carefully he would find that a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been provided to give *taccavi* loans to agriculturists for the sinking of percolation wells. This can be seen at page 141



of the Budget Memorandum under the item, 'Advances for Rehabilitation'. My learned Friend, Sardar Ujjal Singh, has stated that the number of wells that have actually been sunk is very small. May I tell him that wells cannot be provided like grains? After a cultivator has received the loan, he has to wait for the supply of bricks and cement which are not easily available. Then digging takes a lot of time. It is true that so far only three to four hundred wells have been sunk, but there are good reasons for this slow progress. Those who were given loans in November or December have not so far been able to undertake the sinking of wells owing to the non-availability of coal and cement, though they were supposed to complete the work within 3 months. Most of the cement supplies of this province are going to the Bhakra Dam. In spite of these difficulties, great efforts are being made to give all possible facilities for the sinking of wells.

My hon. Friend, Sardar Ujjal Singh, has also said that the sanction of the Government of India to the scheme of tube-wells is being awaited since a long time. I may state for his information that the sanction in question has been received and it is hoped that it would be possible to put up 400 to 500 tube-wells during the next year.

Besides water for irrigation, manure is essential for the improvement of agriculture. Sardar Sahib stated that sufficient provision has not been made for this purpose. I am afraid he said this without going through the Budget carefully. I may inform him that a provision of Rs. 12 lakhs has been made in the Budget to purchase ammonium sulphate for distribution among the cultivators. Under the green manuring scheme, free seed was also distributed last year. In the next year, too, it will be supplied free of charge to all the farmers intending to use it and provision has been made for this purpose.

Sir, the Compost Manure Scheme is being put into operation by employing sufficient staff in this province. It is proposed to appoint staff consisting of one officer, 46 assistants and 92 muqaddams. Besides manure, the seed problem is also of paramount importance. The position of securing seeds has also been adversely affected as a result of partition of the Punjab. All

[ Sardar Dalip Singh Kang ]

seed farms except one have fallen to the share of West Punjab. The Agriculture Department has proceeded with the work of establishing seed farms in the province *de novo* to cater for the needs of cultivators. A sum of Rs. 14 lakhs has been provided in the Budget for seeds. It is also imperative to carry on educative propaganda amongst the villagers in order to bring home to them the advantages of sowing crops at opportune time. They should also be made to understand to keep their fields free from all undesirable weeds. A Bill has been passed to control the pests and weeds which are responsible for a huge loss to the cultivators. A big landlord of the East Punjab in the course of his speech remarked that the control of weeds may be made in Karnal and Rohtak districts where its growth is plenty. A responsible officer of the Agriculture Department told me that the zamindars of East Punjab have not the elementary knowledge of agriculture. We must, therefore, pay great attention to demonstrate by means of regular experiments the methods of proper cultivation of land in order to develop the productivity of the soil. I think when the colonists of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts secure allotment of land on a permanent basis, they will carry on the cultivation of land on right lines. They have considerable experience of agriculture. It is no doubt true that, as remarked by Chaudhri Badlu Ram, the antique methods of agriculture are no longer remunerative and it is necessary that scientific methods should be introduced to develop the productivity of the soil. The cultivators are now in need of tractors for this purpose. The mechanised farming by tractors can only give impetus to "Grow More Food" campaign, and it is only through these tractors that the forest areas have been cleared and made fit for the cultivation of sugar-cane. But I am sorry to say that the number of tractors possessed by the Agriculture Department is very small. They can prove effective to bring under cultivation 25 lakhs acres of waste land in the East Punjab. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru has emphasised the importance of carrying on food production on war basis. He has declared many times that India's main effort should be concentrated on making herself self-sufficient in the matter of food production. We must, therefore, make combined efforts to ease the food situation in India. Our aim should be to increase our food production so that India may not stand in need of food imports to feed her population. We must utilize and develop our existing resources and try to increase

our food production in order to make the province nearly as self-sufficient as possible in the matter of essential requirements. Estimates of food production and consumption reveal that there is a shortage of ten per cent of foodgrains in East Punjab and therefore efforts should be made to step up production to make up the deficiency. By doing so we shall maintain the general subsistence level. We should pool all resources to stimulate production in the under-developed areas. Apart from developing agricultural resources, it is also essential to curtail our food consumption so long as the food shortage exists in our province. If the consumption of food progressively decreases, it is obvious that the quantum of our food reserve will automatically increase. For my part, I have decided to keep fast at least once a week so long as the food situation does not improve. My hon. Friend, Sardar Bachan Singh, has remarked that the population in India is increasing by leaps and bounds. The province too will be heading towards disaster if the population goes on increasing by geometrical progression. We should, therefore, take a vow to take recourse to the methods of birth control.

At present, the seeds are not being distributed by the Agriculture department and there is difficulty in obtaining seeds of good quality. The Department has already distributed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakh maunds of seeds to the refugee cultivators who had come from the West Punjab. The seeds of good quality should be in stock with the cultivators who should not depend solely upon the Government. It has been decided through the efforts of the hon. Minister for Development that 60 per cent of iron quota will be given for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Efforts will be made that iron quota so supplied is not sold in the black-market. The hon. Members of this House will see that black-marketing is not carried on in their respective districts and if any case is brought to their notice they will try to get the licence of such agency cancelled. It is not possible to bring about agricultural development in the province by making vigorous speeches on the floor of the House alone but the real issue is that we should study the factors which play a great role to step up production. I know that the officials of the department require warning but the zamindars should also stir themselves to action and try to take the productive capacity of the province to the highest level.

There is no doubt that as my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh said this is the age of speed. People do not go from one

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

place to another on foot. They prefer to travel by air. I beg to submit that wheat has to be sown in the month of Kartik and reaped in Baisakh. This period cannot be reduced. If it were possible, we would have shortened this period. Maize crop takes full ninety days. Similarly other crops take their own time, which cannot be altered. So in the matter of agriculture we have to wait and wait till the crop is ready. It is not in our hands to sow it and reap it as we like. With these words I resume my seat.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** On a point of personal explanation. If the Parliamentary Secretary refers to page 84 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Budget, he will find it stated there:—

About 875 tons of ammonium sulphate has already been distributed to cultivators and out of this quantity 608 tons were sold on subsidised basis and the balance was sold at full rate.

The figure of 2,500 tons stated by my hon. Friend was not correct. Probably he quoted the figure noted on the slip of paper, which was handed over to him.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh** (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I propose to place certain facts before the House to show that our Government is following wrong principles of economics. The elementary rule of economics requires that the poor people should not be over-taxed. They should rather be helped by the Government as far as possible. There is shortage of food, especially of wheat, in our country. Hon. Members will be surprised to know about the manner in which our Government supplied wheat as seed to the zamindars. The Government purchased wheat at the rate of twelve rupees and eleven annas per maund. Adding to it one rupee, seven annas and six pies as miscellaneous expenses, it cost the Government fourteen rupees and three annas per maund. The same wheat was sold to the zamindars at twenty-three rupees per maund. When I enquired the reason for selling it at this rate, I was told that it was done to prevent its being sold in the black-market and to ensure that it was used as seed. Now that the farmers have actually used it as seed, in what manner does the Government propose to use the profit made by it? In reply to my starred question number 615, it was stated that it would be used for the benefit of refugees. It is a simple

rule of economics that taxes are levied on the rich people and the poor, who cannot pay, are not unnecessarily burdened with the tax. Our Government teaches us new codes of love and sympathy with the poor zamindars. Ordinarily, a man who sympathizes pays something from his own pocket to the needy and the poor but our Government has shown us the opposite way of sympathy. It has charged more than the actual cost of wheat from the poor zamindars who were already hard hit by high prices and still claims to have sympathies with the poor zamindars. What a novel way of love, service and sympathy! As the permit had to be obtained from the Tehsildar for purchasing wheat, some villagers had to travel twenty or twenty-five miles for obtaining it. Government has probably made a profit of about two hundred thousand rupees in this manner. If the sum of eight crores of rupees obtained from the Central Government was not considered enough for helping the refugees, what was the necessity of causing so much hardship to the poor zamindars? We are prepared to help the uprooted refugees by all means. Let the Government put forward new proposals of taxation. The rich deserve to be taxed most. Why should the down-trodden few and the zamindars, who happened to purchase wheat from the Government be selected to bear the burden of this taxation to help the poor refugees? Why should not the whole province be called upon to pay something towards this fund? The Government had no right to do so. Is it hoped to encourage the "Grow More Food" campaign by adopting these methods? I am surprised that our Government, which has five zamindar Ministers in it, has started teaching us novel principles of economics. A poor farmer, who had to travel about twenty-five miles for purchasing two maunds of wheat, had to pay eighteen rupees as net profit to the Government. Is it a proof of the professed sympathy of the Government for the poor people? After all, what is black-marketing? Purchasing an article at a lower price and selling it at a very high price is nothing but black-marketing. The wheat which was purchased by the Government at 14 rupees per maund was sold by it at 23 rupees per maund. People say that the Government asks others to avoid profiteering but itself indulges in it. What answer are we to give to the public for these acts of the Government? The main function of a Government is the service of people. Our Government, which claims to be a popular Government, has, however, committed the most unpopular act.



[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

I request the hon. Minister concerned to place this matter before the Cabinet, which should decide to refund the profit made by the sale of wheat to zamindars. If this is not done, discontentment among the people will increase and there may be disturbances or even a revolution, which it may not be possible for the Government to suppress with the aid of Punjab Public Safety Act or other similar measures. The only way of checking the rising tide of dissatisfaction is to serve the public. If the communists promise certain facilities to the masses, the Government should try to provide greater facilities. If this is not done, no power on earth will be able to prevent people from being drawn towards Communism. The replies given by the Government to my starred questions No. 615 and 616 bear testimony to the facts stated by me.

Another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that the agencies which sell seeds to the zamindars do not receive more than twenty-five per cent of the required quantity at the proper time. For example, the seed of the crop which was to be sown in the end of October or the beginning of November was not available at these agencies at that time. It reached them after the 30th of November.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have very attentively listened to the criticism which has been directed towards the Demand for Agriculture. Some of the remarks were self-contradictory and I shall not refer to them. I shall only deal with those points which are not understood by the hon. Members and require some explanation or information.

First of all I take up the question of seeds and steel for implements. It has been suggested that steps should be taken by Government to see that these things are not sold in the black-market. I may inform the hon. Members that hereafter seeds and steel would be distributed through the agency of the co-operative societies in rural areas. The hon. Members may carry this information to the zamindars in their villages so that they may get their requirements in good time from their societies. As the co-operative societies are run and managed by the rural people themselves, we hope that this method of distribution will prove very useful and the causes for complaints will disappear.



My hon. Friend, Sardar Sajjan Singh, has laid great emphasis on the price of wheat which has been charged from the zamindars. It is true that at one time Government bought some wheat at 14 rupees a maund, but later large quantities were purchased from outside the province at much higher rates and in addition to that some incidental charges had also to be paid. Consequently, it had to be sold at a price of more than 14 rupees a maund. But I may tell my Friend that the question of relief to those zamindars who bought wheat for seed is under the consideration of the Government and in all probability some concession will be given to them.

My hon. Friend, Chaudhri Badlu Ram, is of the opinion that under the present regime the condition of zamindars is miserable. As a matter of fact I fail to understand what he says. A large majority of hon. Members belongs to the zamindar class and whatever policy they decide upon in the Congress Assembly Party, we, the Ministers, carry that out as agents of this House. So if the condition of zamindars is not satisfactory, I think it is not the fault of the Ministers but of Chaudhri Badlu Ram himself and other zamindar Members of this House.

Sir, while criticizing the work of the Government in the Agriculture Department, hon. Members have altogether been forgetful of the facts which relate to Partition. They appear to think that the outbreak of disturbances and breakdown of law and order are not very serious matters and that they produced no effect on our activities. I may tell them that Partition was certainly no blessing. It was a great curse and we had to suffer very great hardships. As some of my friends have said we had to lose in the West Punjab 96 per cent of the area that produced long staple cotton, greater part of the canal-irrigated and fertile land, big beautiful gardens, big forests of fuel and, above all, the well known Agricultural College and the Research Institute. In addition to these there are some other losses which have not so far been mentioned in this House. So many research schemes which had been undertaken in the united Punjab were abandoned after Partition. They had to be approved afresh by the central committees of the Government of India. However, approval has been obtained by now in respect of all schemes which had been taken up in the united Punjab. What pleases me all the more is the fact that whereas previously

[Minister for Development]

we got a subsidy of 50 per cent for our schemes from the Government of India, hereafter, owing to the good offices and persuasive power of our Director for Agriculture, we shall get a subsidy of 75 per cent. This is not all. In connection with some particular schemes, the total expenditure will be borne by the Government of India. For example, a total sum of Rs. 16,00,000, which is to be spent on the scheme for development of sugar-cane in three and a half years will be paid by the Central Government.

Sir, alongside of our numerous and untold losses, I am in a position to say that we have been fortunate at least in two respects. Firstly, we are lucky to bring with us from the united Punjab comparatively larger number of experts who have done splendid work in the past and who will help us to build our future in this new province. Secondly, we have got with us that population which was responsible for transforming the barren jungles of Lyallpur, Montgomery, Sargodha and Multan into beautiful fields and gardens. Any nation would be proud of such a population which was not only well known throughout India but in the whole of Asia as a community of fine cultivators. I am sure that with the help of this population and the efforts of the residents of East Punjab, who produce these sturdy colonists, we will soon be able to make good our deficiency in foodgrains.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** But this should be made to happen by 1951 at the latest.

**Minister for Development :** We shall try to do our utmost.

Remarks have been made by some hon. Friends about the resettlement of the uprooted people from the West Punjab. The House is aware that this work is being earnestly done by the Rehabilitation Department of this Government on which money is being spent by the Provincial and the Central Governments not in lakhs but in crores of rupees.

It has been said that the amount earmarked for Agriculture Department is insufficient. Now this is a fact which nobody can deny. Even the hon. Shri Jairamdass Daulatram, India's Food Minister, admitted this fact while speaking in the Conference of Food Ministers held at Delhi. I would like to read out that paragraph

paragraph from his speech, in which he said that the money spent on Agriculture Department in our country was not sufficient :—

But to enable India to achieve this result, agriculture must be allowed to come into its own and receive the priority it deserves in our nation's plans. Agricultural wealth is the basis of our industrial activity and national prosperity. Unless we spend more money and employ more manpower for the improvement and development of agriculture we will continue to face uncertainties and put up with foreign dependence in a matter so vital as food. Many critics have placed before us constantly the achievements of American agriculture ; but we do not realise how incomparably vaster is the Governmental effort which supports the activities of the American farmer. Apart from the huge sums which each individual State provides, the Central Government of the United States spends, as I have stated elsewhere, a sum of Rs. 80/- per person as against an insignificant 1 anna per person which our Central Government is able to use for the country as a whole. The central budget can provide only 12 annas for agriculture out of Rs. 100/- spent on the entire field of Government. A few years ago it ranged from 4 annas to 8 annas out of Rs. 100/-. What do our Provincial Governments spend on agriculture, although the major responsibility for agricultural development rests on them ? In 1947-48, Assam spent on agriculture 15 per cent out of its total expenditure, Bihar 4·2 per cent, Bombay 7 per cent, C. P. 3·2 per cent, Madras 4 per cent, East Punjab 2·2 per cent, and U. P. 3·6 per cent. Even the Central Government in the United States has been spending a higher percentage than some of the Provincial Governments in India.

At this stage, I may inform the House that our Government has now increased the expenditure on agriculture from 2·2 per cent to 3·1 per cent of the total expenditure. It has been said by the hon. Members that the staff of the Agriculture Department should be increased. Even in this respect, we are far behind other countries. The hon. Food Minister continuing said :

The amount of manpower which is behind agricultural production in India pales into insignificance when one compares it with a country like the U.S.A. For every 10 millions of population, the Central Government in India has only 6 Agricultural Officers, whereas the Central Government in the U.S.A. has 408 Agricultural Officers, i.e., 68 times more than we have in India.

In this way we find that in India there are only six Agricultural Officers for every one crore of population whereas in the United States of America there are 408 Officers. I admit that we have not

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[ Minister for Development ]

sufficient staff for the Agriculture Department and we should spend more on it. But the expenditure can be met only out of the income of the province and the income can be increased through taxation. Whenever the Government brings before the House any proposal for increase in taxes, in most cases it is opposed by the hon. Members. In that case, where can the money come from for increased expenditure? In this connection, I am reminded of an incident. We were the share-holders of a bank in the West Punjab. One of our friends embezzled some money of the bank. It was only with difficulty that we managed to realise some of the money from him. After some time, we attended a meeting of a Loans Committee, which was then formed. The person who had embezzled the money of the bank delivered a speech there. He said that Indians were very niggardly and they were not in the habit of spending money. He further said that people should eat delicious food, such as kraha prashad, meat, sweetmeats and fruits. At this stage, the President of the meeting stood up and said, "we should, no doubt, eat all these things, but on whose money? Where is the money to come from?" Similar is the case with regard to the hon. Member who has suggested that more money should be spent on this Department. But the question is where should that money come from? I shall myself be glad to spend more on agriculture. But the Government has no money. So I am helpless.

Again my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh has pointed out that all the 25 lakh acres of waste land should be reclaimed, so that the food production could be increased. This step, no doubt, will remove many of our difficulties. But again the question is of money. The Government has to spend no less than 14 crores of rupees on the reclamation of only five lakh acres of land in five years; even this expenditure can be met only with the help of Government of India. We are, however, trying to get more money from the International Bank for this purpose. But at present, we have no money.

**Sadar Ujjal Singh :** Get it from the Finance Minister.

**Minister for Development :—**Even he has none. How can we reclaim all the 25 lakh acres of land? Under these circumstances, such tall talk is only building castles in the air.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh:** Money can be got from the Government of India ; they are getting rupees 200 crores from outside.

**Minister for Development:** We are urging upon the Government of India for more help. But it will be decided only after the arrangements with the International Bank are finalised. Given some means to do so, we shall not hesitate to reclaim all the waste land.

Now, Sir, if I were to place before the House all the schemes that we have undertaken after the partition of the Province, it will take much time. I will, however, like to say a few words in brief.

Government has already opened the Agricultural College. The vernacular class for the training of mukadams, which was formerly at Lyallpur, has been re-started. There is a provision in the next year's budget estimates for the opening of two Agricultural Schools. As long as a taste for this subject is not created in our youngmen our province cannot prosper. There is need of a change in our outlook. To bring about a radical change in the entire system of Education will take time and will require a sustained effort. But for the present we are trying to introduce some changes which may be of immediate help to the kisans.

Research experts have been busy working. If I were to give a detailed account of their achievements much of the precious time of this House will be wasted. So I shall mention here only their most outstanding contributions to the agriculture of the province. First of all, I should mention that they have been able to produce a superior quality of wheat which is specially useful for the cultivators of 'barani' land. It is called 252. For the district of Gurgaon C 240 is most useful. Its yield will be 40 per cent more. So far as Kangra district is concerned, it has not been neglected. The kind of wheat which gives the highest yield in the climate prevailing in that district is known as C 253. It has a great power of resistance against diseases.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** May I know from the hon. Minister as as to what has been done for Hoshiarpur.

**Minister for Development:** Hoshiarpur is mainly covered with forests and moreover I thought that because the cut motion had



**13—Other Taxes and Duties.**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,46,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of—

**XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses.**

17—Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept.

18—Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,70,26,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of—

19—Construction of Irrigation Works financed from Ordinary Revenues.

68—Construction of Irrigation Work (Capital Expenditure).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,71,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 27—Administration of Justice.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,09,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,81,50,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 29—Police.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,09,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of—

36—Scientific Departments.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

62—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,21,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 37—Education.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,01,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of—

38—Medical.

39—Public Health.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,87,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 41—Veterinary.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,96,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 42—Co-operation.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,87,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 43—Industries.



Government is turning its attention towards the construction of tube wells. Nearly fifteen lakhs of rupees have been provided in the form of taccavi loans for the repair and sinking of wells. Last year we were unable to complete this work because of the fact that cement and other material could not be procured. It was beyond the power of the Department of Agriculture to get the material. Transport difficulties hindered our progress. Every one knows that even wheat was moved from one place to another with difficulty. At a time when wheat was to have priority due to famine conditions how could we expect cement and other material to be supplied as quickly as we wanted. Under the circumstances we could not do anything. But now when the situation has eased, I hope the work of construction of tube wells will progress.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** How can it be so when the amount set apart for the purpose is no more than two lakhs of rupees.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Karg :** It is seventeen lakhs.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70,71,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 40—Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*

*The following demands were then put from the Chair and adopted :—*

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,27,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 7—Land Revenue.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,88,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 8—Provincial Excise.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 90,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 9—Stamps.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,40,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 10—Forests.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of 11—Registration.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,58,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1949-50 in respect of—

12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts.



# East Punjab Legislative Assembly.

3rd Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly.

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Thursday, 31st March 1949.

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*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

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## **PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE OF THE HON. SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL.**

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, it may be unusual to make a statement on a matter to which I wish to refer, but there are certain occasions when conventions have to be given up. It is one of such occasions which occurred on Tuesday night near Jaipur for referring to which I wish to seek your permission.

It is in a spirit of humble gratefulness to God that I stand here to say how happy we, here, and our people outside this House in the Province, feel on the Providential escape which our most revered leader Sardar Patel had. I take this opportunity of expressing to the Almighty the peoples' grateful and humble thanks for having spared our Sardar to us to guide us and enlighten our path by his sagacious advice, firm leadership and profound statesmanship. We all know the most dangerous situation in which the aeroplane carrying the Sardar, his devoted daughter Mani Ben, Maharaja of Jodhpur and Sardar's Secretary Shri V. Shankar were flying to Jaipur, was placed. The ultimate manner in which, through the Grace of God and the presence of mind of the pilot, the plane carrying a most distinguished passenger landed, has caused widespread rejoicing all over the country and I wish to associate myself and this House with that rejoicing and peoples' gratitude to God.

[Premier]

To Sardar himself who has dedicated his life to the service of his people, the whole incident was a matter of little significance. When he spoke on the 'phone about this to India's Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, we are told, he had a hearty laugh. The Sardar alone could laugh over such an incident. We as common people bow to God in gratitude and congratulate our beloved leader on his having come out safe from such a critical situation. He has had many difficult moments in life. He has always come out of these triumphantly. Sardar's emergence from these most difficult moments, which for once shook the whole of India, and through which the country passed with greatest anxiety on Tuesday night, is yet another triumph for the extraordinary will power of this "strong man" of India.

New India which is still in the making needs Sardar's guidance far many more years to come and it is on that selfish ground also that we all feel so happy over his miraculous escape and that of his daughter and the party. I have no doubt, Sir, that these are the sentiments of the people of this province who love the Sardar for all that he has done for India, more particularly for the Punjabees in the darkest hour of their difficulties and misfortune. To his firm dealing with most ugly situations and his wise handling of the disruptive, communal and communist forces which threatened India's internal peace and security, at a most critical juncture of our history, we all stand beholden.

May this most distinguished son of India and the beloved leader of the people live for many more years in perfect health to be our guide, philosopher and friend.

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### HARIJANS IN SERVICES.

\*995. **Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the number of Harijans employed in the various departments after the 15th August, 1947 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh)** : I regret that I cannot reply to this question on the floor of the House. The necessary information can, however, be given if the hon. Member will send it as an unstarred question.

**USE OF LIQUOR BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.**

**\*1002. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that East Punjab Government circulated a letter to the different heads of departments with regard to the use of liquor by Government officials :

(b) whether any of the Government officers protested against the advice contained in the circular ; if so, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) A letter containing instructions, advisory in character, was issued to all Heads of Departments.

(b) As the instructions were advisory there was no question of protest. The second part does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has, as a result of the issue of the advisory letter from the Government to the officials, any success been achieved ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Response has been very good.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In what sense has the response been very good ?

**Minister :** Use of liquor has decreased to a great extent.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are any figures maintained about the use of liquor by the officers in the parties or privately ?

**Minister :** No figures are kept with regard to liquor consumed or the parties given in which liquor is served.

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**SUSPENSION OF MAGISTRATES.**

**\*1004. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total number of Magistrates suspended from service since the partition together with the reasons in each case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

First part.

It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to Members of the P. C. S. and not to Tehsildars and Naib-Tehsildars, who are also Magistrates. If so, the number is eight. Two of them have since been re-instated.

Second part.

It is not in the public interest to disclose these reasons. In some cases the officers are facing regular enquiries, which are in progress.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Were these officers suspended in connection with some corruption cases?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The reasons for suspensions were corruption and misconduct.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Has any Magistrate been suspended for being in possession of looted property belonging to the Musalmans obtained during the last disturbances ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** In one case action has been taken on such an allegation but I cannot say more about it because the matter is being enquired into. At the present time I can only say that allegations of this nature exist against some of them but nothing definite can be said until the result of enquiry in all the cases is known.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any one of these officers been suspended because of the charge of importing communal bias in his official work ?

**Minister :** The charge of such a nature would come under the definition 'mis-conduct' but I will again repeat that we cannot say whether any one is guilty of a particular charge because the enquiries are in progress.



## REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE.

**\*1011. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be please to state :—

- (a) the number of seats reserved for women on the Vocational Training Institute ;
- (b) whether he has received any representation to the effect that higher proportion of seats be reserved for girls on the said Institute ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) There is no mixed Vocational Training Institute. There are, however, Vocational Training Centres, regular Government Industrial Schools for Girls, and Government Demonstration Travelling parties and Spinning parties for Women. As these are run exclusively for the training of girls, the question of reservation of seats for women does not arise.

- (b) No.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Has the hon. Minister received any representation from the lady in-charge of the Employment Exchange Ambala requesting for a higher proportion of seats for the girls ?

**Minister :** I cannot lay my hands on any such representation at the moment.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Minister has said in his reply that there are separate Industrial Schools for girls; may I know if the refugee students of these schools are given Rs. 43 a month like the boy students ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This question does not arise out of the reply given by the hon. Minister.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHOPRA COMMITTEE.

**\*1012. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether Government has taken any action on the recommendations of the Chopra Committee in the matter of registration of Vaidas and Hakims in the Province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** The report of the Chopra Committee is under consideration and action on the recommendations contained therein will be taken in due course. So far as the registration of Vaidas and Hakims is concerned, an appropriate Bill will be introduced during the current session.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that the report of the Chopra Committee is being considered. May I know if the persons who are neither Hakims nor Vaidas but have studied allopathy will also be included in the Bill ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Bill is quite extensive.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I want to know whether the cases of the persons who have studied allopathy but do not hold any degrees, will also be considered ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, their cases will also be considered.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I have also read the Bill and the hon. Parliamentary Secretary must have also read it; need I tell him that there is no provision for such persons in the proposed Bill ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Lady Member should bring an amendment at the proper time.

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### ADVANCE OF SALARY TO THE REFUGEE REVENUE PATWARIS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*741. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any advance was paid to the revenue patwaris and the inferior staff of Amritsar District who had come from Pakistan ;
- (b) the amount paid in advance to each class ;
- (c) if the reply to part (a) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Advance was paid to such of the inferior staff only who applied for it.
- (b) Rs. 345.
- (c) The patwaris are not eligible for advance.

#### **DELAY IN PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO PATWARIS OF PATTI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

**\*742 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether about 25 revenue patwaris of Sub Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar have not been paid their salaries for the month of July 1948 up till now, if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** No. All the revenue patwaris of Patti Sub Tehsil were paid their salaries for the month of July, 1948 during the month of August, 1948.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know the date on which the salaries were paid to the patwaris for the month of July ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall make enquiries.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that the payment of salaries was made after I had given notice of this question ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Since the exact date is not known, what difference does it make whether it was paid before or after the hon. Member had given notice of his question.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** If the salary of July is paid in February, does not the Government consider it a hardship to the poor patwaris ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This does not arise out of the question. Besides, the hon. Member is asking the opinion of the hon. Minister.

### DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF *KHALASIS* ATTACHED TO CANAL OFFICERS.

**\*743. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of *Khalasis* attached with each of the Canal Officers and their subordinates of the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar, during the year 1948-49 ;
- (b) the total amount paid to each one of them per month ;
- (c) the duties of these *Khalasis* ;
- (d) whether any complaints have been made to the authorities that some of the *Khalasis* are made to work as private servants of the officers they are attached to ;
- (e) what steps, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter to put an end to this practice ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

(a) Superintending Engineer	...	1
Executive Engineer, Head Vernacular Clerk and Camp Clerk	1 per Executive Engineer only	
	( <i>Khalasi</i> to work with Head Vernacular Clerk and Camp Clerk while in Camp).	
Sub-Divisional Officer	...	1 each
Deputy Collector	...	1 each
Zilladars	...	1 each
Overseers	..	1 each
Sub-Divisional Clerk	...	1 each
Drawing Branch of Divisional Office...	1 each	
Vernacular Office	...	1 each

- (b) Pay Rs. 15, Dearness Allowance Rs. 25, Total Rs. 40 p. m.  
Fixed T. A. Rs. 4 p. m. to camp followers only.

c) The khālasis are meant to remain in attendance in the offices of the officers and subordinates for carriage and distribution of dak and other odd jobs such as shifting camp and carriage of Government records. The Khalasi with Zilladar is sent out for 'tamil' work also and khalasis of subordinates help them in looking after their stores and carriage of levels etc.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister that Khalasis are made to work as private servants of the officers?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** No, they are not supposed to be employed for private work.

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**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND DAILY ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY  
THE CANAL OFFICERS OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL CIRCLE,  
AMRITSAR.**

\* 744. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

(a) the rates of Travelling Allowance of Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Sub Divisional Officers, Deputy Collectors, Overseers, Zilladars and Canal Patwaris by road and by rail in the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar, at present;

(b) the rates of daily allowance of each of the aforesaid canal employees;

(c) the total amount received by each of these officers excepting Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance and daily allowance drawn by Patwaris in Majitha and Jandiala Division from 1. 4. 48 to 31. 12. 48 and the Travelling Allowance drawn by refugees coming over from the West Punjab;

(d) the total amount paid to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal as Travelling Allowance and daily allowance from 1. 4. 48 to 31. 12. 48;

(e) the total amount paid as Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance from 1. 4. 48. to 31. 12. 48 to a canal patwari of Bundala Zilladar, Jandiala, District Amritsar?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** (Sardar Narotam Singh):-

- (a) & (b) Rates are given in the Travelling Allowance rules available in the Assembly library.
- (c), (d) & It is regretted that the time and trouble involved in
- (e) collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

**DELAY IN PAYMENT OF SALARY TO S. JAGTAR SINGH, NAIB  
PATWARI, VILLAGE SURSINGH DISTRICT AMRITSAR.**

**\* 745 Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether it is a fact that S. Jagtar Singh took over the charge of Naib Patwari (Revenue) of village Sur Singh, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar on 17- 7- 47, and is working there since then;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he has not been paid his salary from 1- 7- 47 to 31- 1- 49 up till now; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what action, if any, the Government propose to take in this matter and also to avoid the recurrence of such delays ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** (Sardar Narotam Singh):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) S. Jagtar Singh has been paid his salary for the periods noted below:-
  - from 1-7- 47 to 11- 7- 47.
  - from 17- 7- 47 to 31- 7- 47.
  - from 1- 8- 47 to 14- 8- 47.
  - from 1- 2- 48 to 31- 1- 49.
- (ii) As regards his salary for the period from 15-8-47 to 31-1-48, the claim has now been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, from the Tehsildar, Tarn Taran. The claim requires pre-audit by the Accountant General, East Punjab, to whom it has been sent.
- (c) Instructions are being issued to ensure prompt and timely payments.



**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** May I know the reasons why salaries for 17 months had not been paid in time to the incumbent?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I have already replied to this in part (b) of the main question.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Is it not a fact that payment of salary was not made to him before the 10th February, 1949?

**Minister:** Not to my knowledge.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Is the Government prepared to hold an enquiry into the matter and take steps to bring to book the person responsible for this irregularity?

**Minister:** If the payment has been delayed so much, then I think it is irregular. A thorough enquiry will be made into the matter and the person responsible for this delay will be properly dealt with.

#### ARREST AND RELEASE OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH R. S. S. MOVEMENT.

**\*884. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of arrests made in connection with R. S. S. movement in this Province;
- (b) the number of persons who have since been released together with the number of those who are still in jails;
- (c) the number of those who tendered apology together with those in whose case the apology has been accepted?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) 3524 )
- (b) First part - 190 ) Upto 5/3.49.
- Second part - 2734 )
- (c) First part - 173 )
- Second part - 172 )

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** May I know whether it has come to the knowledge of the Government that in Ludhiana, Jullundur and at several other places, the R S.S. prisoners have gone on hunger strike?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Lady Member is anticipating the adjournment motion on the subject. Next question, please.

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**GRANT OF LICENCES TO DEAL IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION.**

**\*886. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) whether special consideration is shown to border towns in the grant of licence to dealers of Arms and Ammunition;

(b) whether any such applications have been received by the Government from Gidarbaha, Abohar and Fazilka in Ferozepore district; if so, what action was taken on these applications?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) Yes.

(b) None for Gidarbaha or Fazilka. Six for Abohar, however, are under consideration. There is already one dealer at Fazilka.

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**CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, AMRITSAR.**

**\*888. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) the financial position of the Central Workshops, Amritsar, i. e., the expenditure and income thereof;

(b) whether the G. C. W. Mazdoor Union Amritsar has repeatedly represented their grievances to the Government; if so, what are the demands and the action taken thereon?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

(a) Expenditure from April 1948 to December 1948

Rs. 40, 40, 893/-

Income from April 1948 to December 1948

Rs. 43, 16, 283/-

(b) The Union did make certain representations and a statement summarizing the demands and action taken is laid on the table.

## UNION'S DEMANDS.

- (i) Daily wages of workers may be changed to monthly pay according to Pay Commission's Report.
- (ii) Quarter allowance or free quarters may be sanctioned for the workers.
- (iii) Compensatory allowance may be given to the workers.
- (iv) Dearness allowance may be given.
- (v) Establishment of Services.
- (vi) Provision may be made for the education of workers' children.
- (vii) Medical dispensary may be provided for the workers and their families.

## ACTION TAKEN ON ABOVE.

- [i] Accepted.
- [ii] This cannot be allowed according to rules.
- [iii] & [iv] Dearness allowance which is the same as Compensatory allowance is already allowed.
- [v] The following miscellaneous services and amenities are provided:—
  - [a] Canteen is run in the Factory for the benefit of the workers and representatives of the workers are associated with its management. Any profits which accrue are utilized for the benefit of the workers in various ways.
  - [b] Free water is allowed in the workers' colony.
  - [c] Free conservancy service is provided.
  - [d] Free medical service is provided within the Factory and the Estate for the workers and their families.
  - [e] Free street lighting is provided.
  - [f] A library and Reading Room have been established in the workers, Colony.
  - [g] Workers Sports Club is also run by contributions from the Welfare Fund.
  - [h] The system of allowing interest-free advance payable in easy instalments to the workers from the Welfare Fund on the occasion of marriages, deaths, and for expensive sickness in the families of the workmen, has also been introduced.
  - [i] Co-operative Stores have also recently been opened for the benefit of the workers and substantial sum payable in easy instalments has been advanced from the Welfare Fund.
  - [j] Radio is provided and is worked at lunch hour for the benefit of the labour.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

- [k] Important news items are briefly written in simple language on the board in the labour shed for the information of the workers.
- [vi] Free Education. Primary education is the responsibility of the Municipal Committee. The local Committee was moved and they have agreed to establish a school in the Estate.
- [vii] Dispensary in the Factory Estate. A dispensary has already been opened.

### REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

\*990. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh;** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of scheduled caste officers recruited so far to the Police above the rank of constables:

(b) whether any of these officers holds a Gazetted post; if so, the number thereof?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:** I must decline With regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House. I am sorry to have to adopt this attitude but Government consider it necessary in the public interest to abide by the convention that has been established in connection with such questions. I will, however, always be prepared to examine any such matter which hon. Members may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

### DACOITIES COMMITTED BY OUTLAWS IN THE PROVINCE.

\*1000. **Dr. SANT RAM SETH :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of dacoities committed by outlaws in the East Punjab during the year 1948;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the outlaws were shot dead by police at the spot; if so, the number and the names of such persons?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) 41.

(b) Yes nine viz. (1) Sohulia Naek (2) Bishna Meena (3) Pritam Singh (4) Saudagar Singh (5) Dalip Singh (6) Dalip Singh II, (7) Harbans Singh (8) Sadhu Singh and (9) Nazar Singh.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** May I know whether an outlaw, named Makhan Singh, was also shot dead?

**Minister :** I cannot say as I have not got the facts with me.

### POSTING OF PUNITIVE POLICE IN VILLAGES OF EAST PUNJAB.

**\*1003. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number and the names of villages in the province where the punitive police has been posted together with the reasons which prompted the Government to do so in each case;
- (b) the amount of fine which each village is required to pay as a result thereof?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) First part and } A statement is laid on the table.
- (b) }
- (a) Second part. To cope with the abnormal crime situation prevailing in the areas.

### STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF VILLAGES IN THE PROVINCE WHERE PUNITIVE POST HAS BEEN POSTED AND THE AMOUNT OF FINE IN EACH CASE

S. No.	District.	Names of villages.	Amount to be realised.	Period for which cost is calculated.
			Rs	
1.	Hissar	Ding	8, 911- 7- 0	One year
2.	Rohtak	Lohari Teba and Salimsar Majra.	8, 595- 3- 4	-do-
3.	Rohtak	Garauthi, Chiri & Chandi	10, 764-13-6	-do-
4.	Rohtak	Chhara	11, 510- 11- 6	-do-
5.	Karnal	Kharyal [The post has been sanctioned by Government, but not actually located as yet]	11, 310- 7- 0	-do-
6.	Amritsar	Kohatwind, Mehta and Naugli.	17, 762- 11- 5	-do-

**POLICE OFFICERS DISMISSED OR DEGRADED.**

**\*1005. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

(a) the number and the names of Superintendents Police, Deputy Superintendents Police, Inspectors Police, Sub-Inspectors Police and Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables who have been dismissed or degraded since the partition;

(b) the reasons for which these punishments have been accorded to them;

(c) the number and the names of such officials who have since been re-instated to their original posts?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

(a) , (b)&(c) A statement is laid on the table. †

**HARIJANS IN THE REFUGEES' CAMPS.**

**\*987 Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of the Harijan refugees stranded in the various Refugee Camps in the province;

(b) whether the Government has under consideration any scheme to resettle them; if so, the details thereof?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):-**

(a) 16,356

(b) Schemes for the rehabilitation of the rural non-landholders in view of quasi-permanent allotment to displaced landholders are at present under consideration.

**HARIJANS IN THE REFUGEE CAMP, BATALA.**

**\*988. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Harijan refugees living in the Refugee Camp, Batala have been asked to leave the said camp; if so, the reasons therefor;

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† Kept in the Library



- (b) what steps, if any, the Government has taken or proposes to take to resettle them?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):-**

- (a) No.  
(b) Does not arise.

#### **PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO REFUGEES.**

**\*989. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government proposes to make permanent allotment of land to those Harijan refugees who are in possession of evacuee agricultural land under allotment or otherwise but who did not own land in the West Punjab?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):** In the quasi-permanent settlement, evacuee lands are being given only to those who had land in the West Punjab and to persons of Punjabi extraction from parts of Western Pakistan outside West Punjab. No one will be entitled to land who did not own land in the West Punjab.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :-** May I know whether on 25th June, 1948, at the residence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a decision was arrived at in this connection that. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** That does not come under administrative capacity of the hon. Minister. May I say for the future guidance of the hon. Members of the House that no supplementary questions should be asked on the basis of private talks or private correspondence between the Government and the members or any private communication passed between the Government and the public.

#### **HARIJANS OF VILLAGE MASURA DISTRICT GURDASPUR.**

**\*991 Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that certain Harijan refugees were given lands on lease a few months ago in village Masura, Tehsil Gurdaspur;

[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

- (b) whether it is a fact that they were given assurance to the effect that they would be given loans for building residential houses in that village;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no loans have so far been given to them inspite of their repeated requests; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):-**

- (a) Yes, five Harijan families were given lands on lease in village Masura Tahsil Gurdaspur.
- (b) No.
- (c) There is no scheme yet for advancing loans for building houses in villages. Only grants are given for repairs of evacuee houses.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Is it a fact that the Harijans of Masura made a representation that taccavi loans should be given to them for the construction of houses?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have already replied that the taccavi loans are not given by this department; only grants are given for repairing the houses.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** I want to know whether any representation was received from the Harijans of Masura for loans for the purpose of building houses?

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** We do not give loans; we make grants only for the repairing of the houses.

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#### **LOANS AND GRANTS MADE TO HARIJAN REFUGEES.**

**\*994 Master Gurbanta Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total amount of loans and grants sanctioned to Harijan refugees who migrated from West Punjab urban and rural areas districtwise?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:-**

A statement showing disbursement of loans and grants to Harijan refugees in various districts of the East Punjab is laid on the table.

**STATEMENT OF LOANS AND GRANTS.**

	District	Total amount of loans disbursed in rural areas	Total amount of grants disbursed in rural areas.	Total amount of loans disbursed in urban areas.	Total amount of grants disbursed in urban areas.
[1]	Ludhina.	1,20,43,4	3,450	9,050	1,135
[2]	Kangra.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
[3]	Ambala.	90,430	640	6,500	-
[4]	Gurdaspur.	1,49,262	21,946	43,750	3,500
[5]	Karnal.	23,457	Nil	Figures not available.	
[6]	Rohtak.	Nil	Nil	Figures not available.	
[7]	Gurgaon.	9,097	200	6,350	-
[8]	Simla.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
[9]	Hoshiarpur,	1,19,736	1,652	37,450	4,250
[10]	Amritsar.	76,910	6,260	6,550	500
[11]	Ferozpur.	24,519	Nil	8,150	-
[12]	Jullundur.	70,992	1,305	28,575	275
[13]	Hissar.	2,60,910	Nil	14,800	5,700

**LADIES' REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE PROVINCE.**

**\*1001. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of Ladies' Camps for refugees in the East Punjab together with the places where they are located;
- (b) the number and the names of ladies' camp commadants employed at present;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Bibi Sant Kaur Sant has been appointed as a Camp Commandant; if so, the salary drawn by her?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):-**

(a) Following Homes for the unattached refugee women and children are now in existence:-

(1) Ram Colony Mahila Ashram, Hoshiarpur.

(2) Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur.

(3) Sewa Sadans at:-

Jullundur,

Batala, Gurdaspur district.

Ambala.

Karnal.

Besides these regular Homes, sectors have been set apart in all the refugees camps in the province for lodging the unattached women and children.

(b) The total number of Lady Camp Commandants and Lady Deputy Camp Commandants now is 23. Their names are given below:-

**CAMP COMMANDANTS**

(1) Mrs. Kaushal, Camp Commandant, Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur.

(2) Shrimati Damyanti Sehgal, Camp Commandant, Ram Colony Mahila Ashram, Hoshiarpur.

**Deputy Camp Commandants.**

(3) Shrimati Ved Chopra.

(4) Miss Kamla Mehra.

(5) Shrimati Santosh Bhandari.

(6) Shrimati Lila Vati Suri.

(7) Shrimati Prem Dhawan.

(8) Mrs. G. C. Singh.

(9) Shrimati Kalaish Bhalla.

(10) Mrs. S. Dhillon.

(11) Mrs. Sabherwal.

(12) Mrs. Maya Das.

(13) Shrimati Dhan Devi.

(14) Mrs. Kapila.

(15) Shrimati Lalita Puri.

(16) Dr. Deve Bala.

(17) Mrs. Savitri Vadhera.

(18) Shrimati Daljit Kaur.

(19) Miss Satya Sud.

(20) Shrimati Mata Hooja.

(21) Shrimati Sukh Dev Kapur.

(22) Miss P. K. Makhan Singh.

(23) Shrimati Harbans Sindhwalia.

(e) There is one Camp Commandant of the name of Bibi Sant Kaur Sant in the East Punjab. She is given Rs. 120/- per month.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Is it a fact that Bibi Sant Kaur was a candidate on the Communist ticket during the Punjab Assembly elections in the year 1946 ?

**Minister For Relief And Rehabilitation:** This question does not arise. However, I may inform the hon. Member that people do change their views on political matters and as she also changed her political views we took her.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Is it a fact that Bibi Sant Kaur opposed Dr. Parkash Kaur who stood on the Congress ticket during the last Assembly elections?

**Mr Speaker:** How does this question involve the administrative responsibility of the Minister?

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** Is she still a Communist ?

**Minister:** I can give this assurance to the hon. Member that so far as my knowledge goes she is no longer a Communist.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** May I know whether after the elections of 1946 when she opposed Dr. Parkash Kaur on a Communist ticket, Bibi Sant Kaur performed some sort of 'pashchatap' before she was taken in service?

**Minister:** There is no question of 'pashchatap'. A person is always free to change his views and Government is satisfied that she is no longer a Communist.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Has she given any assurance in writing ?

**Minister:** She can do that also but you can take my word for it that she is not a Communist.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Has she given an assurance that she will not take part in any Communist activity?

**Minister:** Yes. As a matter of fact during the elections she felt sorry for what she had done and said that she had committed a mistake.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it the policy of the Government to take an assurance from a person about his political views?

**Minister:** No. But in this case since a misunderstanding had been created, I wanted to remove that. Government do not bother about the political views of individuals.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Has the hon. Minister got sympathetic feelings for her?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Have you got feelings of enmity against her?

— — —

#### **HARIJAN FAMILIES SETTLED BY HARIJAN WELFARE OFFICERS.**

**\*993. Master Gurbanta Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Harijan Welfare Officers in the province are entrusted with the duty of resettling Harijan families;
- (b) If so; the number of families settled by each Welfare Officer in his respective area?

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh:-**

(a) & (b)

The information is being collected.

#### **OPENING OF VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT NOSHERA PANUAN IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

**\*740 Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the District Board of Amritsar decided on 21. 8. 45 to open a Veterinary Hospital at village Noshera Panuan, Tehsil Tarn Taran;



- (b) whether the decision referred to above has been accepted by the Government and the hospital opened, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang):-**

- (a) Yes.  
(b) The matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** May I know the reason why the Government have taken over three years to consider the matter and still no decision has been taken?

**Parliamentary Secretary** This Government came into existence only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years ago. (*Laughter*):

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** This resolution was passed in the Joint Punjab.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** This matter has been before the Government for the last  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years and no decision has been taken. May I know the reason why?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** We considered this question when it was brought to our notice.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** How long will it take to decide it?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Very soon.

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#### NOMINATION OF M. L. As. TO LOCAL BODIES.

**\*888. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether according to the policy of the Government there is a ban against the nomination to Local Bodies of those who stood for election but were defeated in the previous elections;
- (b) whether any such nominated members have been asked to resign their seats; if so, the names of such persons;
- (c) the number of M. L. As. nominated to local bodies;
- (d) whether the resolution of the working committee of the Provincial Congress Committee asking the M. L. As. to resign from Local Bodies has come to the notice of the Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shri Dev Raj Sethi:-

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Shri Tarlok Chand, a nominated member of the Municipal Committee, Kalka, who had been twice defeated in the elections, was asked to resign. He declined to do so and was consequently removed. There is no other such case.

(c) Municipal Committees.	8 )	Total	16
District Boards	8 )		

(d) Yes. Most of the members have since resigned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it the considered policy of the Government that if a person has been defeated in any election, he should not be nominated to that local body?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** When was this decision taken?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** It is an old decision and was taken in the United Punjab.

**Dr. Sant Ram Sethi:** When Shri Tarlok Chand was nominated, did the Government not know that he was a defeated candidate?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** No.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Is the Government aware that the President of the Kalka Municipal Committee is a defeated candidate?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I require notice. I think that the information of the hon. Member is incorrect.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** Can the Parliamentary Secretary quote any example where a defeated candidate has been nominated to a local body?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Every thing is done according to rules.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal:** I appreciate the rule but I want to know if any defeated candidates have been nominated to any Board?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** It is not in the knowledge of the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that a defeated candidate is not nominated. May I know if the defeated candidate is not nominated to that Board in the election of which he has suffered a defeat or his defeat in an election to some other Board is also considered a bar to his being nominated to another Board?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Defeated candidate is not nominated to that Board in the election of which he has been defeated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** The Provincial Congress Committee passed a resolution that M. L. As. should resign from the Board to which they have been nominated. Has effect been given to this resolution?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Most of the nominated M. L. As. have resigned from the Boards?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** what was the number of nominated M. L. As. and what is meant by 'most of them'?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have nothing to add.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the Parliamentary Secretary say if he has resigned from the Local Body to which he was nominated?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The resignation has since been sent.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** If some of the members refuse to resign what action does the Government propose to take?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** No action on the part of the Government is called for.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Is it not a fact that the President of the Kalka Municipal Committee is a defeated candidate and the Government knows it?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I require notice.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Is it not a fact that the Tehsil Congress Committee sent a representation to the Government about a member that he was defeated in an election in 1946?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I require notice.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Is the Government prepared to enquire as to how many defeated candidates have been nominated to different Local Bodies in the Province?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Yes.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RETRENCHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**\*1013. Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any recommendations have been forwarded by the Ways and Means and Retrenchment Sub-Committee to the Government ;
- (b) the time by which the work of the said Sub-Committee is likely to be finished;
- (c) what action, if any, has the Government taken to implement those recommendations?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sehi ):**

- (a) There is no such thing as Ways and Means Retrenchment Sub-Committee. If the hon. Member is referring to the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, some recommendations of this Committee have been forwarded to Government.
- (b) It is difficult to state the exact time by which the Committee will conclude its work.
- (c) One of the recommendations of the Committee i. e., a cess on road passenger traffic has already been accepted by the Government. Other recommendations are under the consideration of the Government.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said in his reply that some recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have been forwarded to the Government but the hon. Ministers have many times stated on the floor of the House that no recommendations have been received by the Government; may I know who is correct ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The hon. Lady Member is also a member of that committee and she herself knows what recommendations have been sent to the Government ?

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** My statement is that recommendations have been sent but the hon. Ministers do not admit having received any.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** It seems that they are on their way. (*laughter*).

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** Is the way so long ?

**Minister:** The channels through which files pass are not so straight.

**NOMINATION OF GURBAKHSH SINCH S.I. NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
CORPS AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE,  
NURMAHAL, JULLUNDUR.**

**\*1014. Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Gurbakhsh Singh, sub Inspector, National Volunteer Corps, has been nominated member of the Municipal Committee, Nur Mahal, District Jullundur in one of the seats vacated by Muslim evacuees;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said Gurbakhsh Singh is a paid servant of the East Punjab Government;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that no Government servant can become a member of any local body without the special permission of the Government;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi):**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Members of the National Volunteer Corps are not whole-time Government servants. They are private individuals and are paid subsistence allowance only when they are called up to assist the administration.
- (c) Does not arise

**SUB- REGISTRARS**

**\*789. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) what machinery, if any, has been set up to replace the sub-registrars in the province;
- (b) the procedure adopted by the Government for recruitment to the posts now created;
- (c) whether the new posts are to be filled up on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission; if not, the reasons therefor;

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- (d) whether it is a fact that at Tarn Taran and some other places in the province no sub-registrar has been appointed and the Tehsildars have been asked to do the job in addition to their own duties;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Tehsildars generally take up this job in the late hours of the day after attending to their own work and the public is thus experiencing some hardship in this matter;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to continue this practice referred to in part (d) above; if so, for what period ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):

- (a) Registration work has been placed in the charge of Tehsildars or Naib-Tehsildars in cases where offices of such Registrars have fallen vacant or become vacant.
- (b) No new posts of Sub Registrars have been created.
- (c) The question does not arise.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No such instance has been reported to the Government.
- (f) For the present this arrangement will continue and it will be changed if on revising it is found necessary to do so.

**DEMANDS OF THE ILAQA PRESENTED TO MINISTERS ON THEIR  
VISITS TO KAIRON IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

**\*792 Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that he and two other hon. Ministers of the East Punjab Government visited village Kairon, District Amritsar on the 12th February, 1949;
- (b) whether on this occasion the inhabitants of the ilaqa presented an address in which they expressed several grievances and made certain demands;
- (c) what decision has been arrived at by the Government with regard to these demands?



**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** How long is it likely to take before the Government comes to any decision on the demands put forward by the inhabitants?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The matter is being considered; no definite date can be given.

#### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT DALHOUSIE.

\*895. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that more than four hundred houses including big and spacious bungalows are lying vacant in Dalhousie;
- (b) whether the Government has considered the question of utilizing this accommodation some how?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):-

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** For which Government Departments the vacant buildings in Dalhousie are to be used?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** This has not been decided.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it being considered that the vacant houses in Dalhousie may be used by the Government for some of their departments?

**Minister:** The second part of the hon. Member's question is correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** How far has this matter been considered?

**Minister:** I have no gauge to measure as to how far the matter has been considered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Apply the gauge of sense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order.

**SHARE OF THE EAST PUNJAB GOVERNMENT OUT OF  
PARTITIONED PROPERTY BELONGING TO UNITED  
PUNJAB ASSEMBLY.**

**\*1006. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that partition of property belonging to United Punjab Assembly was effected before the partition; if so, have the East Punjab Government received its share; if not, how much of its share has been left in West Punjab?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Secretary, East Punjab Assen.bly, was able to effect partition of a part of the library and equipment of the Punjab Legislative Assmby Office before 15 - 8 - 1947 and the question of getting the remaining share in kind or in the form of financial adjustment is under consideration. The value of buildings and permanent fixtures of the Legislative Assembly building will be taken into account at the time of financial adjustment between the provinces of East and West Punjab in the prescribed ratio.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** What portion of the Assembly Library has been brought from Lahore?

**Minister :** The number of boks that have been received from Lahore can be seen in the Assembly Library here and the hon. Member had seen the Library of the joint Punjab. The hon. Member by eliminating the portion that has been left behind can by himself work out the portion that we have got.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Books of what value have been brought?

**Minister:** Books worth 18 hundred rupees we have got.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** What was the value of the library in the joint Punjab?

**Minister:** Twenty-five thousand rupees. The decision about the libraries unfortunately was that the duplicates only could be removed; the sets could not be broken. The balance has to be made up by financial adjustments and not by physical division.

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#### VALUE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY LEFT IN WEST PUNJAB.

**\*1007. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total value of Government property left in West Punjab;
- (b) the total value of share of East Punjab Government out of the property referred to above;
- (c) the value of such property left by each Department of the Government separately?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):-**

- (a) It is very difficult to give even an approximate total value of the Government property left in West Punjab as some of the property has been physically partitioned between the two Provinces, while a part of the property may be taken into account at the time of financial adjustment between the two provinces. Discussions are still proceeding between the Governments of East and West Punjab in regard to the partitioning of a part of Government property.
  - (b) According to the ratio fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal, East Punjab is to get 40% of all Government assets in the united Punjab Province.
  - (c) As stated in para (a), it is very difficult to give the value of property left by each department separately in West Punjab.
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**PANCHAYATS IN THE PROVINCE.**

**\*1008. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of Panchayats organised district-wise after the passing of the Panchayat Act;
- (b) the number of Harijan members taken in each Panchayat in the Province?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt:**

- (a) The Punjab Village Panchayat Act was passed in 1939 and came into force from February 2, 1940. By the time of partition for the Province 8250 Panchayat were organised under the Act. So far as the 13 districts of East Punjab are concerned, a statement showing the number of Panchayats established under the Act up to December 31, 1948 is given below:-

1. Hissar	-	391
2. Rohtak	-	335
3. Gurgaon	-	358
4. Karnal	-	390
5. Ambala	-	340
6. Simla	-	28
7. Kangra	-	405
8. Hoshiarpur	-	354
9. Jullundur	-	461
10. Ludhiana	-	336
11. Ferozapore	-	411
12. Gurdaspur	-	319
13. Amritsar	-	332

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Total      4460  
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- (b) As there are 4460 Panchayats in the province, the information required will take at least a month to collect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government have issued any instructions against the inclusion of Harijans in the panchayats ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** No. There is a regular election and Harijans are represented in almost all the rural panchayats.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** May I know whether it is a fact that so far as rural panchayats are concerned, Harijans are not accorded fair treatment by the election officers ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It is an expression of opinion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Government is in a position to give figures as to the number of Harijans in each of the panchayats ?

**Minister :** As I have already stated, the number of panchayats is so large that it requires a lot of time to collect the requisite information.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Has any representation been made by the Harijans in this regard ?

**Minister :** No separate representation is given to any community in the panchayats. There is a regular election.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** What I want to know is whether Government has received any representation from the Harijans that they are not treated justly by the election officers ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member has asked a general question. If he brings any specific case to my notice, I will make enquiries.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the election officers and other people create such conditions as are not conducive to the smooth election of the Harijans to the panchayats ?

**Minister :** No complaint of any kind has been received so far.

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### REPRESENTATION OF HARIJANS IN VARIOUS SERVICES OF THE PROVINCE.

**\*1009. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total number of Harijan Extra Assistant Commissioners, Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Deputy Collectors, Zilladars, Girdawar Kanungos and Revenue and Mal Patwaris, respectively in the East Punjab at present ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):** It is regretted that a reply to this question cannot be given on the floor of the House. The necessary information can, however, be given if the hon. Member sends it as an unstarred question.

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### DISTRIBUTION OF SLACK COAL.

**\*1030. Chaudhri Badlu Ram :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of persons to whom the quota of slack coal was allotted in the year 1948-49 ;
- (b) the number of allottees who have started their kilns ;
- (c) whether there are any allottees who have not started their own kilns ;
- (d) the manner in which they disposed it of ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that they sold it in black-market to kiln owners ; if so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):** The information required is not available at the headquarter offices. The time and labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the results to be obtained.



**HEADMASTER OF THE NARAIN GARH GOVT. HIGH SCHOOL.**

**\*1047. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :--

(a) whether it is a fact that the Headmaster of the Government High School, Narain Garh retired some four months ago and nobody has taken his place yet ;

(b) what steps the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) Yes. But the 2nd Master of the School has been appointed to officiate as Head Master, pending the appointment of a permanent Head Master.

(b) The question of appointment of a permanent Head Master is under consideration of the department.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that apart from the Headmaster, the school is short of five or six other teachers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the hon. Member gives notice, enquiries will be made.

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**PAYMENT OF SALARY TO PATWARIS FOR THE PERIOD THEY  
REMAINED ON STRIKE.**

**\*746. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) what decision, if any, has been arrived at by the Government regarding the salary of the revenue patwaris who were on strike from 8-11-48 to 18-12-48 ;

(b) whether any cut has been effected in the salary of such patwaris for that month ; if so, the amount thereof ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that after the strike was over, the patwaris were made to work for about 18 hours per day to make up the deficiency of the work lying in arrears owing to the strike ;
- (d) whether they have been paid for their extra duty, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

- (a) and (b). Patwaris will not get any pay and allowances for the days they remained on strike.
- (c) No. In Amritsar, however, patwaris were required to work from 9-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m. and from 7-0 p.m. to 9-0 p.m.
- (d) No, there is no provision for it.

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**LACK OF AMENITIES FOR REVENUE PATWARIS POSTED IN  
AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

**\*747. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the revenue patwaris of Amritsar district have been working at their tehsil headquarters since 29-12-1948 ;
- (b) whether any accommodation arrangements were made by the Government for the patwaris during their stay at the tehsil headquarters; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these patwaris are made to work even on Sundays and other Gazetted holidays since their arrival at the tehsil headquarters to finish the arrears of the work regarding rehabilitation ;
- (d) whether they have been paid any extra salary for this overtime work, if not, the reasons therefor ;

- (e) whether any charpais were supplied to the patwaris and any housing arrangements made for their rest and comfort during their stay at the tehsil headquarters from 29-12-48 to 13-2-49. if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (f) whether the patwaris had to sleep on the floor during their stay at the tehsil headquarters at Patti and Tarn Taran in the same room where they used to work in the day time ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) First part. Yes.  
Second part. Does not arise.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No, there is no provision for it.
- (e) The patwaris made their own arrangements for charpais but housing arrangements were made by Tehsildars or Naib Tehsildars.
- (f) Patwaris, who could not arrange for charpais were supplied mats.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether the Government intends to give financial help to the patwaris who made their own arrangements for lodging ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Government did make arrangements to a certain extent but beyond that, for all the comforts and luxuries which the patwaris provided for themselves, Government is not responsible to make any payment for that by way of help.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it not a fact that Government failed to provide any charpais for the patwaris ?

**Minister :** I have already replied that Government did make some arrangements in this direction.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know the number of charpais supplied to them in my district ?

**Minister :** I require notice for that.

**LAND DISCHARGED FROM CANAL CHAKBANDI IN AMRITSAR  
DISTRICT.**

**\*791. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether notices to many land owners of different villages have been issued by the authorities of the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar, informing them that all their *chahi* lands which were being irrigated by the canal are to be discharged from the canal *Chakbandi* ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what is the total area of land to be affected by this decision ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes. Notices have been issued to cultivators asking them to show cause why their lands classified as ' Chahi ' in the Settlement records of 1936-40 should rank for water in the revised Chakbandi now being prepared.
- (b) The figures for the total area classified as ' Nahri ' in the Settlement of 1911-12 and reclassified as (Chahi) in the Settlement of 1936-40 are not available. There is no intention to discontinue irrigation to such (Chahi) areas which were classed as Nahri before 1939-40 Settlement and which were already included in the Chakbandi, but which have been classed as ' Chahi ' in that Settlement.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know if it is in the knowledge of the Government that discharging of (chahi) lands from the canal chakbandi will result in heavy loss and great hardship to the zamindars ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is an expression of opinion.

**Minister :** Sir, I want to inform the hon. Member that so far as the notices which he has mentioned in his question are concerned, we have issued instructions that those notices may be regarded as cancelled. (*Applause*) Government communique has already been issued to this effect.

**CIRCULAR BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, POLICE REGARDING  
ANTI-CORRUPTION.**

**\*889. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a circular has been issued by the Inspector General Police directing anti-corruption officers not to hold enquiries into the conduct of officers of high rank and those belonging to departments other than the Police Department; if so, with what result ;
- (b) the action the Government propose to take in this matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes, a circular letter was issued by the Inspector General of Police in September 1948 to all Heads of Police Offices in East Punjab directing them to discontinue the employment of their staff to take up cases against corrupt officials belonging to departments other than the police. This was considered necessary in view of the orders issued by Government in August 1948 to all Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police forming District Anti-Corruption Committees in all districts of the province. The Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police in each district meet frequently to consider the cases of corruption in their districts and police enquiries are ordered, where necessary. The Deputy Commissioners have full authority to co-opt any suitable non-official or non-officials in this work generally or in a particular enquiry.
- (b) In view of the orders issued by Government in August 1948, Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether it is not a fact that instructions have been issued to the police not to hold enquiries into the conduct of high ranking officers?

**Minister :** The reply that I have given to the main question covers both high and low-ranking officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know whether anti-corruption staff can hold enquiries into the conduct of all officials from Ministers to peons?

**Minister:** Anti-corruption staff can start enquiries against anybody.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** The hon. Minister has given an evasive reply to the main question.

**Minister:** Not at all.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Part (a) of the question requires the hon. Minister to state whether any circular has been issued by the Inspector General of police directing the anti-corruption staff not to hold enquiries into the conduct of high ranking officers etc. May I know whether any circular to that effect has been issued?

**Minister:** I regret that my hon. Friend did not listen to the reply carefully. It has been clearly stated therein that a circular was issued by the Inspector General of Police. The object was to avoid duplication of work. The police was directed not to take cognizance of cases against officials of departments other than the police, as anti-corruption staff had been entrusted with that work. The Deputy Commissioner has full authority to co-opt any suitable non-official in this work generally or in a particular enquiry.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** May I know whether the district anti-corruption committees have got any work to do or whether it is merely a paper arrangement?

**Minister:** They have work.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Does such a committee exist in every district?

**Minister:** I think so. I can enquire if the hon. Member wants definite information on the subject.

**Pandit Faqir Chand:** Does such a committee exist in Amritsar district?

**Minister:** I can find out if the hon. Member gives notice



**Pandit Mohan Lal:** Are non-official members co-opted in this committee in the Hoshiarpur district?

**Minister:** I require notice.

### LOSSES AS A RESULT OF DACOITIES COMMITTED IN THE PROVINCE.

\*1010. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of dacoities committed in East Punjab during the year 1948 together with the number of arrests made in connection thereof;
- (b) the number of people killed as a result of these dacoities;
- (c) the number of dacoits killed during the encounters with the police or public;
- (d) the total value of property looted by the dacoits together with value of the property recovered by the police?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Dacoities. - - - 294  
Arrests. - - - 789
- (b) 48;
- (c) 38.
- (d) Property looted has been reported to be worth about Rs. 10 lacs and that recovered nearly Rs. 2, 33, 000.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Has the recovered property been returned to the owners?

**Minister :** Recovered property cannot be returned till the case is decided by a court of law.

### ELECTRIC ENERGY AVAILABLE IN GURGAON.

\*1015. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

[Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish]

- (a) the total amount of electric energy in Kilo Watts available in Gurgaon town;
- (b) the amount of electric energy available for consumption by (i) the Government (ii) by the Municipality (iii) for lighting purposes and (iv) for industrial purposes respectively?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Narotam Singh):

- (a) 400 K. W. in terms of maximum demands.
- (b) (i) 30 K. W.  
(ii) 10 K. W.  
(iii) 144 K. W.  
(iv) 216 K. W.

#### ALLOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL POWER CONNECTIONS IN GURGAON

**\*1016. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state -

- (a) whether it is a fact that it was decided in the beginning by the Government to allocate industrial power connections in Gurgaon directly by the Electricity Department without referring to the Electricity Board; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) since when this decision has been reversed and it has been decided to refer all applications for industrial load to the Electricity Board;
- (c) whether the consumers who were given the electric power connections after the Government's decision referred to in (a) above but before the Government's revised decision referred to in (b) above would be affected in any way;
- (d) the exact number of connections and the amount of load sanctioned in each case in pursuance of the decision referred to in part (a) above?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Ajit Singh):

- (a) Yes, up to 15 K. W. in each case, as the power available was considered enough to meet with the anticipated demand.
- (b) 29-1-49.
- (c) No.

(d) Five, vide list laid on the table.

List of connections sanctioned at Gurgaon prior to the authority given to the Branch by the Board was withdrawn.

Sr: No.	Name of Consumer.	Load	Remarks.
		approved in K. W.	
1.	Shri K. P. Thukral.	15·0	
2.	M/S Shanker Oil, Flour and General Mills.	15·0	
3.	Shri Gian Chand.	14·980	
4.	Shri Bishan Dass Sharma.	11·390	
5.	S. Pritam Singh (Saw Mill).	11·370	

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** After meeting the load mentioned in part (a), does the Government feel that they will be able to meet the requirements of all the applicants who applied later?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Government have received applications for 2500 k. wts. and only 400 k. wts. energy is available. It will, therefore, not be possible for the Government to meet the whole demand.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** Will the Government reconsider the cases of those people who got the connections without the sanction of the Board?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** We are prepared to reconsider if we are asked to.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish:** So that the decision is not final?

#### DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS ATTENDING TO OFFICE WORK AT THEIR HOUSES.

\*1029. **Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Deputy Commissioners in many districts in the Province do not attend office and do office work at their residences;
- (b) whether the above practice is observed with Government's approval;

[Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi]

- (c) whether Government is aware that the public is put to inconvenience because of this practice;
- (d) whether Government proposes to take any action in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma):**

- (a) Yes. Most of the Deputy Commissioners have their offices in their residences and have separate court rooms within the compound of the District Courts. They go to courts to do their court work and the rest of office work is done in the office room provided in their residences.
- (b) Yes. As stated above Government have provided separate office rooms in Deputy Commissioners' residences for the purpose
- (c) No. On the contrary the practice is conducive to efficiency and is convenient to the public, who can approach the Deputy Commissioners even after regular office hours.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** Does the Government realize that the administration of the district is adversely affected if the head of the district does not come to the office because in that case the other magistrates and the officials also come at their sweet will?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** It is the other way about because the people can see the deputy commissioner even after regular office hours and there is a separate room for interviews

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is there any classification of duties which a deputy commissioner is supposed to perform at his residence and in his court?

**Minister:** He has to perform two different functions, one as the head of the district administration and the other as a district magistrate. Court work is done in the court room while the other office work is more conveniently done in his office room attached to his residence.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** Has the efficiency increased more when the Deputy Commissioners work at their residences than before when they used to work in their court rooms?

**Minister:** Even before they used to do office work at home and court work in the court rooms. There is no difference one way or the other.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** Has it come to the notice of the Government that almost all the Deputy Commissioners do not come to courts at all?

**Minister:** As far as my information goes, they do come to the courts for court work. If the hon. Member has got any instance specifically, I can make enquiries.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner Jullundur has no room in the District Court?

**Minister:** I am not aware.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh:** If the hon. Minister does not know about Jullundur, how can he know about other districts?

#### CHAUKIDARS AND JAMADARS IN THE VILLAGES.

**\*1031. Chaudhri Badlu Ram:** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) the necessity of chaukidars and jamadars in the villages;
- (b) whether they render any service to the villagers; if not, whether the Government has under consideration the abolition of the chowkidara tax?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) The list of duties of Chaukidars and Daffadars (and not Jamadars) is laid on the table.

- (b) First part. Yes.

2nd part. Does not arise.

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

### **DUTIES OF VILLAGE CHAUKIDARS OR DAFFADARS.**

The village watchman is the servant of the village community and as such is bound (subject to the orders of the Deputy Commissioner) to obey the village headman. He is also bound to assist the police to the best of his ability in all matters connected with the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders.

It is the duty of every village watchman to keep watch and ward in his village.

Every village watchman shall report in person on the state of his beat once a fortnight to the officer in-charge of the Police Station within the limits of which such beat is situate. Where there are more than one village watchmen in a beat such report shall be made by one village watchman only, and the duty shall be taken by rotation. The Deputy Commissioner may, should he deem fit, order more frequent reports, at such intervals and for so long as he considers proper, from any beat in his district.

Every village headman and village watchman is bound forthwith to communicate to the officer-in-charge of the Police Station within limits of which his village or beat is situate, any information he may obtain respecting any person found lurking in such village or beat who has no ostensible means of subsistence, or who cannot give a satisfactory account of himself, or respecting the residence in or resort to any place within the limits of such village or beat of any person who is a reputed house breaker or thief, or who is of notoriously bad livelihood.

Every village headman and village watchman shall observe and from time to time report to such officer, the movements of all bad characters in his village or beat and shall report the arrival of suspicious characters in the neighbourhood.

Every village headman and village watchman shall forthwith make a report to such officer in the event of any notorious bad character residing in his village or being absent at night without having given notice of his departure, and shall give timely information of his associating with individuals of bad repute or ceasing to labour or to obtain a livelihood by honest means.

Every village headman and village watchman shall keep such officer informed of all disputes which are likely to lead to any riot or serious affray and of all intelligence he receives affecting the public peace within or near his village or beat.

Every village headman and village watchman shall at once give to such officer any information he may obtain respecting the commission of, or intention to commit, any of the following offences in his village or beat, that is to say :—

rioting;

concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body;

causing miscarriage;

exposure of a child;



mischief by fire;

mischief to animals by poisoning;

attempt to commit or abetment of the commission of any of the above offences; and to attempt to commit culpable homicide.

It shall be the duty of the village headman and village watchman to report to the officer in-charge of the police station within the limits of which his village or beat is situate, all deaths which occur in such village or beat, and to furnish such other information in connection with vital statistics as may be required of him by the Deputy Commissioner from time to time.

Every village headman and village watchman shall in like manner report to the officer in-charge of the police station within the limits of which his village or beat is situate, the appearance of any epidemic disease among people or animals in his village or beat, and shall report to the patwari on demand the total number of deaths caused thereby, and shall also supply to the best of his ability any local information which the Deputy Commissioner may require.

Every village headman and village watchman shall prevent, and may interpose for the purpose of preventing, the commission of any cognizable offence, as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Every village headman or village watchman receiving information of the commission of, or of a design to commit, any such offences, shall communicate such information to the officer in-charge of the police station within the limits of which his village or beat is situate.

Every village headman and village watchman knowing of a design to commit any such offence may arrest, without orders from a Magistrate and without a warrant, the person so designing if the commission of the offence cannot be otherwise prevented.

Every village headman and village watchman may of his own authority interpose for the prevention of any injury attempted to be committed in his view to any Government, Municipal or Railway property, moveable or immoveable, or to prevent the removal of or injury to any public landmark.

Every village headman and village watchman may without orders from a Magistrate and without a warrant arrest :—

1st — any person who in the sight of such headman or watchman commits a cognizable offence as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure;

2nd—any person against whom a reasonable complaint has been made or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been concerned in any such offence ;

3rd—any person against whom a hue and cry has been raised of his having been concerned in any such offence;

## [Minister for Home and Revenue]

4th—any person who has been proclaimed either under the Code of Criminal Procedure or in a Police Gazette or Notification;

5th—any person found with property in his possession which may reasonably be suspected to be stolen property;

6th—any person who obstructs a police officer or village headman or village watchman acting under these rules, in the execution of his duty, or who escapes from lawful custody;

7th—any person reasonably suspected of being a deserter from His Majesty's Army or His Majesty's Indian Army;

8th—any person who has been concerned in or against whom a reasonable complaint has been made or credible information has been received or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been concerned in any act committed at any place out of British India which if committed in British India would have been punishable as an offence for which he is under any law relating to extradition or under the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881 or otherwise liable to be apprehended or detained in custody in British India.

If a person forcibly resists an endeavour to arrest him, every village headman and village watchman may use all means necessary to effect the arrest.

No person arrested by a village headman or village watchman shall be subjected to more restraint than is necessary to prevent his escape.

The village watchman shall take charge of all persons arrested by the village headman under these rules, or by any private person under any law for the time being in force, and shall forthwith take or send any person or persons so taken charge of by him, or any person or persons he himself may arrest, before the officer in-charge of the police station within the limits of which his beat is situate: Provided that during the hours of darkness the person or persons arrested may be detained in custody at the village, but must be taken as early as possible on the following morning to the police station.

### **SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO VILLAGES OF THANA SALHAWAS, DISTRICT ROHTAK.**

\*1032. Chaudhri Badlu Ram: Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the sum of rupees 10 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government for supplying water for drinking to some villages of thana Salhawas, district Rohtak;

- (b) whether the work has been taken in hand; if not, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):

- (a) No.
- (b) The question of taking the work in hand does not arise. Government are, however, already considering the question of supply of drinking water for certain groups of villages of Rohtak and Hissar districts by realignment of the canals of the Bhakra project.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

#### ALLEGED PURCHASE OF A CAR WITHOUT PERMIT BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, HOSHIARPUR.

1134. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued instructions that the District Transport Authorities may not register Chevrolet Cars which the Government officers purchase without permit; if so, the authority for issuing these instructions;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Chevrolet car purchased by Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, recently, was refused registration by the District Transport Authority;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said Deputy Commissioner appealed against the order of the District Transport Authority in his own court and passed judgment in his own favour setting aside the order of the District Transport Authority;
- (d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh:**

- (a) There is no such person as District Transport Authority. The question of issuing any instructions to District Transport Authority, Hoshiarpur, therefore does not arise.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Shri Virendra:** Is it not a fact that the Government some times ago issued instructions that no officer could purchase a Chevrolet car?

**Minister:** Instructions to whom?

**Shri Virendra:** To the officers and all motor dealers. Is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur purchased a Chevrolet Motor Car without the permission of the Government?

**Minister:** I require notice to find out the fact.

**Shri Virendra:** Is it not a fact that the Registering Authority refused to register the car?

**Minister:** I have already replied to it.

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#### Schedule of Expenditure (1949-1950)

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt): Sir, as required by Section 80 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935 I lay on the Table the Schedule of Expenditure for the year 1949-50 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

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As required by subsection (1) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following Schedule in respect of the financial year 1949-50 which specifies:-

- (a) the grants made by East Punjab Legislative Assembly, and
- (b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province:-

### Schedule of Expenditure.

Demand No.	Major Heads of Account	Grants made by the East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	7. Land Revenue	50,27,100	2,200	50,29,300
2	8. Provincial Excise	9,88,600	...	9,88,600
3	9. Stamps	90,900	...	90,900
4	10. Forests	48,40,000	5,000	48,45,000
5	11. Registration	23,900	...	23,900
6	12. Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Act.	10,58,100	...	10,58,100
	13. Other Taxes and Duties			
7	XVII. Irrigation-Working Expenses			
	17. Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept.	62,48,600	75,58,600	1,38,05,200
	18. Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues.			
8	Irrigation-Establishment Charges	1,13,71,100	...	1,13,71,100

[Minister for Finance]

**Schedule of Expenditure—Contd.**

Demand No.	Major Head of Account	Grants made by the East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
9	19. Construction of Irrigation Works financed from Ordinary Revenues.	7,70,26,100	..	7,70,26,100
	68. Construction of Irrigation Works (Capital Expenditure)			
	22. Interest on Debt and Other Obligations	...	12,51,100	12,51,100
	23. Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.	...	12,51,100	12,51,100
10	25. General Administration	1,43,07,900	6,99,800	1,50,07,700
11	27. Administration of Justice	30,71,900	9,35,000	40,06,900
12	28. Jails and Convict Settlements	33,09,500	...	33,09,500
13	29. Police	2,81,50,600	...	2,81,50,600
14	36. Scientific Departments			
	47. Miscellaneous Departments			
	62. Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	10,09,600	100	10,09,700
15	37. Education	1,81,21,700	11,800	1,81,33,500
16	38. Medical	75,01,100	22,400	75,23,500
	39. Public Health			
17	40. Agriculture	70,71,500	..	70,71,500
18	41. Veterinary	23,87,400	2,500	23,89,900
19	42. Co-operation	24,96,400	...	24,96,400
20	43. Industries	24,87,800	...	24,87,800



**Schedule of Expenditure—contd.**

Demand No.	Major Heads of Account	Grants made by the East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
21	43-A Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	25,00,000	...	25,00,000
	72. Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	1,20,25,700	1,86,800	1,22,12,500
22	50. Civil Works.	8,67,700	3,300	8,71,000
23	Buildings and roads-Establishment Charges	20,69,700	55,66,600	76,36,300
24	52. Interest on Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes. XLI. Electricity Schemes-Working Expenses	53,04,400	...	53,04,400
25	Charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure.	3,40,91,600	...	3,40,91,600
26	50-A Capital Outlay on Civil Works met out of Extraordinary Receipts.	6,41,39,000	...	6,41,39,000
	81. Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.	55,000	...	55,000
27	53. Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes met out of Revenue.	17,65,100	19,300	17,84,400
	81-A. Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).			
28	54. Famine			
29	55. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions			

[Minister for Finance]

**Schedule of Expenditure—concl'd**

Demand No.	Major Heads of Account	Grants made by the East Punjab Legislative Assembly	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.	Total
30	55-A Commutation of Pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues.			
	83. Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure).	2,39,500	1,00,000	3,39,500
31	56. Stationery and Printing.	31,91,400	...	31,91,400
32	57. Miscellaneous.	9,31,74,700	1,12,400	9,32,87,100
	63. Extraordinary Charges.			
	63-B Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes.	...	...	...
33	82. Capital Account of Other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.	18,73,540	...	18,73,540
34	85-A Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading	1,07,33,100	...	1,07,33,100
35	Advances not bearing interest—Advances Repayable.			
	Loans and Advances bearing interest.	17,10,000	...	17,10,000
36	Loans to Municipalities, Advances to Cultivators, etc. Loans to Government Servants.	6,15,63,100	...	6,15,63,100
<i>Grand Total...</i>		49,18,91,340	1,39,74,700	50,58,66,040

SIMLA

*The 30th March, 1949*

C. M. TRIVEDI,

*Governor of East Punjab*

**ADJOURNMENT.**

**Premier** (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir I move-

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned till 2. p.m. on Monday, 4th April 1949.

*The motion was carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION****Hunger Strike of R. S. S. Prisoners and Detenus.**

**Pandit Mohan Lal** (Una, General, Rural): Sir, I ask for leave of the House to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious and precarious condition of the R. S. S. detenus and prisoners at present detained in different jails of East Punjab Province on account of their hunger strike over the refusal of the Government to treat them as better class political prisoners.

Sir, I had given notice of the adjournment motion which I have read but I have received orders from the Leader of the House not to ask for leave and in deference to his wishes I very reluctantly have decided to abide by his instructions.

**Premier:** Sir, I am very sorry that the hon. Member has drawn your attention on the floor of the House to a decision which was arrived at in the party meeting. I do not think it was fair on his part to do so, but if he wants to move the adjournment motion I leave him free to ask for leave of the House and I will make my statement on the floor of the House and face the adjournment motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have so many times told the hon. Member not to refer to any decisions which are arrived at in the Party Meeting, on the floor of the House. So far, as the Chair is concerned it is free from all party questions in the Chamber.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** Sir, I do not ask for leave.

## RESOLUTIONS.

## Provincial and Federal Languages.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the Resolution moved by Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur on 10-3-49.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir as you know, last time when I spoke on this resolution, I could not finish my speech because the time allotted to me had expired. I thank you for permitting me to speak again today. That day i. e. on the 10th March 1949, I had just broached the question of script, when I had to resume my seat.

In my opinion, Sir, if language is the soul, script is the body. Every language has its own special script in which it can be written best.

The script, which after improvement and polishing came to be named Gurmukhi, has been in existence and in use for writing Punjabi since very old times. It was improved and polished and so specially evolved by Guru Angad Devji to write Punjabi language. I have already given some proofs in support of this contention. Now I would like to quote from well like-known philologists to establish my proposition.

Shri Duni Chand Ji, M. A. on page 31 of his book Bhasha-Vigian says,

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ ਲਿਪਿ ਮੇਂ ਲਿਖੀ ਜਾਤੀ ਹੈ ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ ਲਿਪੀ ਮੇਂ ਲਿਖੀ ਜਾਤੀ ਹੈ ।

Punjabi is written in Gurmukhi script).

In the Linguistic Survey of India (page 622). Grierson writes as follows:-

The Punjabi is usually written, in Gurmukhi alphabet; indeed the name Gurmukhi is often applied, most incorrectly, to the language itself. There is no more a Gurmukhi language than there is a Devnagri one.

Now I read a passage from Pandit Kashav Mishar's monograph

ਨਾਗਰੀ ਅੰਕ ਆਰ ਅਖਸਰ,

ਨਾਗਰੀ ਅੰਕ ਆਰ ਅਖਸਰ

(Nagri numbers and Characters), page 23, published by Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag, in the year 1999 Bik:-

First of all I want to discuss the more important scripts that are in vogue in India. There are five Indian languages in particular, on the script of which it is most essential to think over, from the point of view of their origin and development. The five languages to which I have referred are Bengali, Marathi, Gujrati, Hindi and Punjabi.

On page 23, he starts discussion on the script of Marathi and Hindi i. e., Devnagri, script of Punjabi i. e., Gurmukhi and the scripts of Bengali and Gujrati. In this book, Gurmukhi script and Punjabi language have, respectively, been included among the important scripts and languages of India.

After this, I would like to quote from an article about the 'Etymology of Punjabi Letters' contributed by Dr. Raghuwira in 1936 to the Magazine 'Punjabi Prakash'. Dr. Raghuwira is a member of the Constituent Assembly of India from the Central Provinces. He has played a very important role in the translation in Hindi of the Draft Constitution of India. In this article, he writes about the Punjabi language as follows:-

Like Devnagri (script of Hindi, Marathi and Nepali), Sharda, Tibeti, Bengali, Oryia, Mewari, Nandi-nagri, Tankri, Gujrati etc., Gurmukhi script has come out of some unknown form of 'Brahmi'. Just as in other modern scripts of India, in this script, too, we write according to what we pronounce. For writing pure Punjabi, we cannot seek the help of any other script. After all, when we have a script of our own, what is the necessity of adopting any other script. We sometimes cannot imagine the harm that we do to our own language by adopting a different script for writing it. The result of this is that the words of other languages are taking the place of the words of our own language and are thereby making it incapable of expressing finer thoughts and feelings of our mind. I consider this matter to be a question of life and death for Punjabi language.

Another article by Dr. Raghuwira appeared in the same journal under the title 'Origin of Punjabi Script'. I would like to read a passage from this article as well:-

It is a matter for great regret that the chain of the History of OUR DEAR SCRIPT in the Punjab is nowhere to be found complete. Some 800 years ago, the Punjab was over-run by foreigners, who brought with them

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]

their own script. The centre of the native culture began to shift towards the East after that. Owing to the moving of the centre of Sanskrit learning to the Madhyadesh, it was but natural that Sanskrit books should have been written in Devnagri. Had the Punjab remained the centre of Sanskrit learning, Punjabi script would have been used for writing Sanskrit books here too, just as they were written in Bengal, Oryia, Malabar etc., in the scripts in vogue there. The trading community, however, continued using this script for keeping their accounts, although with a view to rapidity, they wrote it in a less pure and somewhat 'crooked' form. According to Sikh history, Guru Angad Dev ji (1595-1609 Bikrami) effected some improvements in this script and thereby gave it a respectable and elevated position. The 'beoparis', however, continued to write a 'tehdi' (crooked or oblique) form of this script.

While discussing the causes of the increased popularity of Devnagri in the Punjab, Dr. Raghuvera writes as follows:-

Owing to the religious movements of the last century such as the Arya Samaj and the Sanatan Dharma, Devnagri gained much publicity in the Punjab, because the leaders who started these movements, came from outside Punjab, and spoke Hindi and wrote in Devnagri.

Sir, on the 10th instant and today, I have given enough quotations to prove beyond doubt that Punjabi's own script is Gurmukhi. Punjabi should be written in Gurmukhi script. As aptly remarked by Dr. Raghuvera if we change the script of a language it would be fatal to its growth. It is, therefore, necessary that the script of Punjabi should be Gurmukhi. If Punjabi dies out or is changed to any extent the Punjab will be anything but the Punjab, according to the Premier of C. P. - Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, whom I have already quoted on the 10th instant. It is imperative that we should have Gurmukhi in Punjab, the old veteran guard of the Gate, at the border. We must, therefore, try to maintain the growth of this popular language. Gurmukhi is the specialised script of Punjabi. It is, therefore, necessary that Punjabi should be written in Gurmukhi. Gurmukhi has been produced by improving and polishing the scripts in which the Punjabi was written in remote times. Gurmukhi is not a foreign script imported from outside, so why should anybody have any objection to its adoption. Here I place before the House a comparative chart ‡ Gurmukhi Lande, Tankri and Sharda scripts showing how these scripts, in which the Punjabi had been written for many centuries, were polished and improved to form Gurmukhi.

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‡ Vide pages 62—66 *infra*.



The need for improving and polishing these scripts arose because there were many defects in them and because they differed from place to place. Grierson, on page 624 of the 'Linguistic Survey of India', remarks:-

Closely resembling Landa is Takri or Tankri, the character employed in the Himalayas of the North Punjab, a refined variety of which is Dogri.....Landa and Takri differ from place to place.

He again describes on page 628 that:-

Nor does the character (Landa) easily lend itself to writing more than a few sentences. Its decipherment is so difficult even to those who write it, that it is seldom employed except for writing accounts and the like among the illiterate shopkeepers.

Further on he says on page 639 that:-

This (Dogri) alphabet is very imperfect.

Therefore a standard modification of all these scripts, which was free from defects and so could be widely adopted, was needed.

Apart from this, I would submit that some people hold the view that in order to nourish education, Hindi should be adopted as a medium of instruction in the schools. But we should not lose sight of the fact that according to the decision of the Central Government, Hindi will be a compulsory subject and it will occupy the place of English. Also as a matter of principle a child should be instructed in the early stage of his education through the medium of the mother tongue. We have to study Punjabi as our provincial language. The Educationists Committee of the Government of India has decided that we can progress linguistically and also in the wider domain of culture and human advancement through our mother tongue. Besides, we can express our ideas clearly through our mother tongue. We should, therefore, recognise the value of learning our provincial language. Some people advocate the adoption of Hindi as the medium of instruction but in the Punjab Punjabi is our mother tongue and we should not be deprived of our fundamental right to receive instruction through the medium of our mother tongue. We should start with our mother tongue in the early stage of our education and should learn Hindi in the later stages. A basic principle of education is that a student who starts his education through the medium of his mother

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]

tongue and then learns Hindi, will always be better off in every way than the student whose mother tongue is Punjabi but in spite of that receives instruction in Hindi from the very beginning. A Punjabi student having received instruction through the medium of Hindi can never come upto a student whose mother tongue is Hindi, say from U. P. or C. P., but the student who receives education through his mother tongue and also learns Hindi as a compulsory subject after a couple of primary classes, can hold his own against a student from U. P. or C. P. even in the examinations conducted in Hindi.

Some people are of the opinion that if Hindi becomes our national language and then if it is not made the medium of instruction for the boys in schools, they will not be able to secure good jobs in the Government departments nor would they be found suitable for any kind of business. But the Government of India has decided to give option to the candidates to take up examination of the Federal Public Service Commission in any of the languages, as is given out in 'the Tribune' of the 15th August 1948. The student who would like to appear in any competitive examination would not thus feel handicapped as he can take up examination in any language. We shall be able to express our ideas more easily in our own language than in any alien language like English. According to the decision of the Government of India, Hindi would be a compulsory subject in the schools and in this way people would be able to carry on their business in this language in any part of India without difficulty.

Some people say that the child should be allowed to study in any language he wants to. More harmful thing than this cannot be imagined. In this way there will be two groups in one class one studying Hindi and the other Punjabi. The practical result of this would be that due to external, political and communal influences practically all the Sikh students will be in the Punjabi-reading group and all the Hindu students in the Hindi-reading group. There will be no other excuse, such as a language being the mother tongue of the students, except the communal one, for this decision, and, therefore, a permanent split will be ingrained into the very being of the young people which will be of unimaginable harm to the nation. Having different schools

in the same area offering instruction in different languages without the excuse of their being the mother tongues of the students, will cause the same split in a wider atmosphere. This dangerous mentality should not be allowed to develop among the boys. It is, therefore, desirable that by unanimous decision we should recognise Punjabi written in Gurmukhi script as the provincial language and that it should be given the place hitherto enjoyed by Urdu in the educational institutions and in official work of the province.

Some people say that the students should be allowed to study Punjabi in Gurmukhi or Devnagri script as the student desires. This will again cause the split already referred to by me. Also it will create two Punjabi languages as happened in the case of Hindustani written in Devnagri and Urdu scripts. This danger has so well been recognised by the Oriental Faculty of the East Punjab University that they have decided to abolish the high proficiency examinations in Punjabi in all other scripts except Punjabi (Gurmukhi).

I want to place only one or two more points before the House in this connection. The first thing, which I wish to point out is that it is not proposed to replace the national language. To suggest that the Federal language should replace Punjabi or at least Devnagri should replace its script, alone or along with permission to use Gurmukhi also, because otherwise the cause of Federal language and its script would suffer passes my comprehension. I hope that the hon. Members will arrive at the right decision unanimously after full deliberation, so that our province may remain united and may flourish.

PUNJABI							
Punjabi	Lande				Punjabi	Shurula	Dau Nari
	Lande Punjabi	Kangri	Dagri	Lande of Mullam			
ਊ	ਊ	6	6	6	6	ਤ	ਤ
ਊ	ਊ	ਯ	ਊ	6	ਯ	ਯ	
ਅ	ਅ	ਯ	ਯ	ਅ	ਯ	ਸ	ਸ
ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ
ਸ	ਸ	ਸ	ਸ	ਸ	ਸ	ਸ	ਸ
ੳ	ੳ	ੳ	ੳ	ੳ	ੳ	ੳ	ੳ
ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ	ੲ
ਖ	ਖ	ਖ	ਖ	ਖ	ਖ	ਖ	ਖ
ਗ	ਗ	ਗ	ਗ	ਗ	ਗ	ਗ	ਗ
ਘ	ਘ	ਘ	ਘ	ਘ	ਘ	ਘ	ਘ
ਙ	ਙ	ਙ	ਙ	ਙ	ਙ	ਙ	ਙ
ਚ	ਚ	ਚ	ਚ	ਚ	ਚ	ਚ	ਚ
ਛ	ਛ	ਛ	ਛ	ਛ	ਛ	ਛ	ਛ

Pennsylvania	Delaware	Virginia	North Carolina	Tennessee	Georgia	South Carolina	Florida
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10







[illegible]

**Mr. Speaker:** Resolution moved:

Whereas the Government of India (i) has accepted the principle that a child should be instructed in the early stage of his education through the medium of the mother tongue and (ii) is of the opinion that in the larger interests of the country, it is desirable that the policy enunciated by it should be followed by all Provincial and State Governments, this Assembly recommends to the Government that steps be immediately taken to recognize (a) Punjabi written in Gurmukhi script, as the Provincial Language and that it should be given the place hitherto enjoyed by Urdu in Educational Institutions and in official work in the Province and (b) Hindi in Devnagri script as the Federal Language which should be taught from the fourth primary class and be a compulsory language thereafter. This Assembly further recommends that in regions of this Province where Hindi is the mother tongue it may be treated as regional language of these tracts and be the medium of instruction in the junior basic stage of compulsory education for the ages between 6 and 11 years but after the junior basic stage the language of the province should be the medium of instruction—Hindi, of course, to be continued as the Federal Language.

**Premier:** (The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) Mr. Speaker, the Government issued some instructions in connection with the question of language. According to those instructions, in the first two primary classes a child is to be educated in his mother-tongue. As regards the script, it has been left to the choice of the student. He may choose Devnagri script or Gurmukhi script. From the third primary class, the language and the script other than those, which a student learnt in the first two classes, are taught to him. In this manner, when a child passes the fifth class, he knows both the languages as well as scripts. Different action has been taken on these instructions at different places.

There has been great controversy in the Press about this question and the hon. Members of this House also expressed their desire to express their views about it. Before the Government could issue a detailed statement about this question, notice of the present resolution was received and it was moved in the House on the last non-official day; hon. Members have been exchanging views about it and now some amendments have also been proposed to the resolution. A sub-committee consisting of some hon. Members was constituted to discuss this matter and the findings of that committee are now before the House in the form of amendments. The Government has noted the views of hon. Members as expressed in the sub-committee and it is hoped that we will arrive at some conclusion at an early date.

This is a very important question, because we have to look at it from the point of view of education of children. We have to consult educational experts and also to take all the political aspects of the question into consideration. As the Government will be able to decide this question at an early date, I hope that the mover of the resolution and also those hon. Members who have given notices of amendments will not press their motions. After all, if a resolution is passed, the Government has to consider it and take action on it. The object of moving a resolution in the House is to express views on it. I assure the hon. Members that the Government has noted their views and will again welcome the suggestions of those, who may like to make these, in deciding this question. All these views will be borne in mind at the time of making a decision. I hope that in view of this assurance, the hon. Lady Member will not press her resolution and will withdraw it.

**Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** In view of the assurance given by the hon. Premier, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution as desired.

*The resolution was by leave withdrawn.*

#### DEFINITION OF "AGRICULTURISTS".

**Pandit Mohan Lal** (Una, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : I beg to move—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to widen the scope of the definition of the term 'Agriculturists' in the Punjab Land Alienation Act so as to include all the tillers of land in the category of statutory agriculturists irrespective of the caste or the group to which they might belong.

Sir, under the Land Alienation Act, certain classes of people have been declared as agriculturists, while others are treated as non-agriculturists. Certain restrictions have been placed on the rights of non-agriculturists. They cannot purchase land from agriculturists, nor foreclose mortgages with respect to it. Some other disabilities have also been placed on them under the Act. Many Harijans and other persons who actually till the soil with their own hands are treated as non-agriculturists. This differentiation is artificial and unjustified. This distinction was the creation of British rulers, who desired to maintain their hold on the people by creating split among them.

Sir, the Britishers enacted such measures to strengthen their imperialism. It was an act of grave injustice on their part that they

[Pandit Mohan Lal]

deprived people of some communities of the right of purchasing land. But such a thing cannot be tolerated now when India is free. The House will recall that the Draft Constitution of India provides in its Fundamental Rights that nobody will be barred from selling or buying land for reasons of his belonging to a particular class or community. But I am not asking so much. I don't ask for the repeal of the Land Alienation Act altogether. I am only pleading for a small concession for those unfortunate people who till the land with their own hands and are agriculturists in the real sense of the word as they mainly depend on this profession for their livelihood, but are not treated as agriculturists. I see no reason why they should not enjoy the rights which have been given to the agriculturists by law.

Sir, as we all know population is increasing everywhere and so is the case with poor Harijans in our Province. With the increase in population they require more houses but as they are not agriculturists they are not allowed to purchase land for this purpose without permission of the Collector which sometimes cannot be obtained for years. The poor people are put to unnecessary bother. This is not all. The British-made law is a cause of some insurmountable difficulties for them. I, therefore, request that now when we are free such injustices and inequities should be given a short shrift. We should forthwith give all those rights to the real tillers and cultivators which are enjoyed by the agriculturists under the Punjab Land Alienation Act. With these words, I resume my seat hoping that the House will accept the resolution I have moved.

**Mr. Speaker:** Resolution moved —

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to widen the scope of the definition of the term 'agriculturists' in the Punjab Land Alienation Act so as to include all the tillers of land in the category of statutory agriculturists irrespective of the caste or the group to which they might belong.

**Master Gurbanta Singh** (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution which is before the House. I think the fact will not be denied that in accordance with his policy of 'divide and rule,' the Punjab Land Alienation Act was placed on the statute book by the Englishman to get a greater stranglehold over the poor peasants and keep them in this state of abject poverty for all time to come. To deprive such people from

the rights of agriculturists who really depend on agriculture for their livelihood and bestowing them on those rich Sardars who have nothing to do with cultivation but had inherited vast areas of land given to their forefathers by some rulers in the ancient times was nothing short of being cruel. Such a state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue under our National Government. Times have greatly changed and the laws passed by the Englishman to serve his own ends cannot be tolerated any longer. I think they must be immediately repealed.

Sir, a large majority of the Harijans lives in villages and solely depends on agriculture for its living. They as is natural sometimes feel the necessity of building new houses for themselves. But they cannot purchase even small plot, say of four or five marlas, for this purpose without the sanction of the Collector which is not easily given. Such restrictions entail great hardships for the poor and in case they are allowed to exist they may not only bring a bad name to our great organization, the Indian National Congress, but may even vitiate the useful work already done by our beloved leader, Mahatma Gandhi. I feel that the Punjab Land Alienation Act is a standing insult and disgrace to about 90 per cent of the poor population which lives in villages and should be immediately repealed. If it is not repealed in good time I have no doubt that people will rise in revolt against it and may overthrow the Government which has an inclination to stick to it. With these words, Sir, I strongly support the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Pandit Mohan Lal, which aims at translating the high principles of the Congress and our leaders into action.

**Pandit Faqir Chand:** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I cannot help saying that the Punjab Land Alienation Act is a most unjust and unnatural measure. It is strange to find that a Hindu can become a Muslim and *vice versa* but a non-agriculturist cannot by any means turn an agriculturist because of this enactment. Such a law is unheard of in any civilized country of the world and exists only in this unfortunate land. If some restrictions had been placed on changing an age-old religion it would have been understandable but restrictions on change of professions pass my comprehension. It is indeed a foolish law. If one has once been called a non-agriculturist, he cannot become an agriculturist even if he somehow manages to acquire thousands of acres of land or continues to earn his living by cultivating land with his own hands throughout his life.



[Pandit Faqir Chand]

There is one thing more peculiar about this Act. Certain people who are not themselves cultivators possess big areas of land, while those who actually till the land and depend upon it for their livelihood, are not considered as agriculturists. This classification of agriculturists and non-agriculturists was advisedly created by the British Government. According to this false classification, the actual tillers of land are denied the right to acquire land. I would like to submit, Sir, that the hon. Members who are big land-lords and who are thinking of opposing this resolution should fear not only people but also God, for the injustice that is being done by them. The sooner this Land Alienation Act is repealed, the better it would be for everybody. I will request the hon. Members to think over it dispassionately and not under the influence of excited passion. This is only a small concession which the erstwhile agriculturists should not grudge their other brethren. In this connection, I am reminded of an Urdu verse which means that we are blamed for the very sighs that we heave while others remain quite honourable even after committing murder.

हम आह भी करते हैं तो हो जाते हैं बदनाम।

वह कतल भी करते हैं तो चरचा नहीं होता ॥

ਹਮ ਆਹ ਭੀ ਭਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਤੋ ਹੋ ਜਾਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਬਦਨਾਮ,

ਵਹ ਕਤਲ ਭੀ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਤੋ ਚਰਚਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਤਾ।

I would like to point out Sir, that the hon. Members should now give up the idea that they have to get the votes only of the agriculturists in the coming elections. On the other hand, they shall have to seek the votes of even non-agriculturists under the new Constitution. They should, therefore, fear not only God but also man in view of the coming events. It is in the interests of poor people and the Harijans that this Land Alienation Act should be repealed as soon as possible. I, however, admit that the Government should fix some limit beyond which nobody should be allowed to acquire land. A minimum should also be fixed in which case an agriculturist should not be allowed to sell his land. It is not at all proper that the owners of thousands of bighas of land should remain agriculturists even though they may be engaged in business and industry. What they want is to have the favourable and to shirk the adverse. I, therefore, submit that the big land-lords should not oppose this resolution which needs must be passed.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rara) (*Punjabi*): Sir,



the resolution which was anxiously being awaited by me and other hon. Members has today been brought before the House. We used to hear that the Congress when it came into power would repeal the Land Alienation Act. So today this resolution has been introduced by a responsible member of the Congress party who looks upon himself as very pious and popular. You are aware, Sir, that all the resolutions and other measures purporting to benefit the farmers are, usually, brought forward by the same pious gentleman, the mover of this resolution. Besides he is also responsible for bringing all communal questions before the House.

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** I may submit Sir, that the hon. Member has no religion or any other spiritual principles. I am glad that I do things in accordance with my own principles.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** If I have no religious principles, the hon. Member may keep his own to himself. I know my religion. Being an agriculturist, I want to serve my agriculturist brethren. If the hon. Member is proud of calling himself a God-fearing person by bringing before the House such resolutions, I have no hesitation to say that the world would have been much better without such people. If there had been no zamindars, the people in the cities, who live in good houses and have all the amenities of life could not live so comfortably. The agriculturists toil in the burning heat of the sun when city people sit under fans enjoying life. What a pity that certain people are thinking of finishing the agriculturists.

We have no land-lords in the East Punjab; they mostly belonged to the West Punjab. The people on this side of the border do not realize that the agriculturists are the backbone of our society. It is due to this indifferent attitude towards the agriculturists that ours is a deficit province and we are short of food-grains. People here do not value the services of the agriculturists. I would like to point out that the Punjab Land Alienation Act was not made for the big land-lords. It is not they who have to sell their land. On the other hand, this Act was made to safeguard the little tracts of land owned by petty farmers, who could not make their both ends meet.

It has been said that the people who do not themselves cultivate the land, should be dispossessed of it. But I may submit, Sir, that our brethren who are in the army for the defence of the country or are

[Sardar Joginder Singh Mann]

engaged in service of the State, fully deserve to possess their land. Although they do not cultivate the land with their own hands, yet they serve the State and protect its courts and every thing else; as such they have the right to acquire land. If they are deprived of that it will be a grave injustice to them.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** They are parasites.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** My hon. Friend, Dr. Sant Ram Seth has remarked that they are parasites. I may submit, Sir, that when a person opines on a subject with which he has no acquaintance, it is really very sad. We have no hesitation in accepting the suggestion of a person on a particular subject who understands it. Such an interference is absolutely uncalled—for and most undesirable. As a matter of fact, there are certain Members who cannot consider this resolution with open minds. They are already prejudiced against the agriculturists and as such they must oppose any measure which seeks to benefit the agriculturists in any way.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member should not impute motives.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** That is my opinion. I gather it from the remarks of the hon. Members. I would like to submit, Sir, that the petty farmers who support their families on the land they have got will be deprived of it if the Land Alienation Act is repealed. As a matter of fact, the village artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths and even labourers and tenants are much better off than the farmers. Nobody can deny this fact that the non-agriculturists today are better off than the agriculturists.

Sir, I wish to submit that the poor farmers know no other job except cultivation of lands. They have been ploughing their lands for generations. They know the ins and outs of this profession. But unfortunately their condition is such that they are always in debt. They have sometimes to sell their cattle. Still they remain in debt. But in spite of all this, they love their land and do not wish to leave this profession for another. They bear all sorts of hardships. But here it is proposed to dislodge them from their present position; under the circumstances, I ask the zamindars what charm have they for the lands they so faithfully stick to? Why don't they leave the mud houses and occupy the palatial buildings and beautiful bungalows in the towns

and cities? Why not let the urban people also taste the heat of the sun in the fields in the month of *Asar*? Today this resolution has been introduced to let the non-agriculturists also have a legal right to buy and sell lands freely. I wish to submit that the poor *kisans* have no press of their own. The non-agriculturist have papers like 'Milap', 'Partap' and many others to espouse their cause but the zamindars have no papers to voice their grievances and suffering. It is time for the Jats of Haryana, Majha and Malwa to take concerted action. They claim to be agriculturists. But we find that the interests of the cultivators are being assailed daily by the non-agriculturists under the cloak of Harijan uplift. In this House, there is an attempt to finish the zamindars who have no other occupation but agriculture.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** But here your number is very small.

**Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:** Is that the reason for this attempt? I would advise the zamindars to stand up against this injustice and face it with courage. We cannot tolerate such taunts being hurled at us.

Sir, my submission is that the Punjab Land Alienation Act is the greatest safeguard for the interests of the agriculturists. It is only because of it that they are in a position to make their both ends meet. Now, Sir, even this safeguard is proposed to be removed. Agriculturists cannot do business nor can they sit in shops. They have only cultivation of land as their mainstay. They should not be dislodged from this occupation. It will neither be in the interests of the agriculturists nor in that of the country.

**Mr. Speaker:** I hope there will be no repetition of what has already been said by the hon. Members.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindustani*): Sir, as far as the proposed amendment in the Punjab Land Alienation Act is concerned, I lend my support to it wholeheartedly. I don't belong to any notified agriculturists' tribe; I am a Harijan. But I have some experience of cultivation. I

[Chaudhri Sundar Singh]

am here in this House for abolishing zamindara system. Government of India is bent upon abolishing it. Hon. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru once told Mr. Churchill that he was going to do away with zamindara system in India. So far as this act is concerned, zamindar means that man who cultivates the land with his own hands . . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is not of the zamindars but of the cultivators.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** I have been tilling soil for the last one hundred years.

**An hon. Member:** How can it be so? Your age is not more than fifty years.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** What I meant to point out was that I have been cultivating land for many years. I am an agriculturist in the true sense. There should be no distinction of caste and creed in this matter. In this connection, I beg to submit that the Land Alienation Act has, as a matter of fact, reduced the Harijans to the position of serfs.

It will not be out of place to mention here that Manu the greatest philosopher and the Law giver has made it clear that we are the owners of India. He has made us powerful. I am not talking about the rich people but about those teeming millions who also want to live and live in peace and plenty. After all we have also a right to become the owners of the land. We are not banyas. We are not landlords. We do not want to encroach upon the rights of the others. We seek justice. millionaires and multi-millionaires and the rich zamindars do not do any justice to us.

Now about the resolution before the House. Grave injustice is being done to Harijans. This resolution seeks to include all the tillers of land in the category of statutory agriculturists irrespective of caste, creed or colour. If we want that the ghost of communal hatred should be given an immediate burial and the country may as far as possible be free of its ghastly deeds, then it should be our bounden duty to restore all the amenities

of life which have been usurped by the rich and the privileged classes to the poor people. If the rich zamindars want to continue their hold on their land at the expense of the poor cultivators, they will be doing a great injustice and disservice to their country. I really fail to understand the reasons as to why the rich zamindars who are already living in plenty at the expense of the poor, should be allowed to multiply their wealth by taking part in business. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Some of my hon. Friends who are big zamindars have opened leather shops and are thriving in business. It really ill-behoves them to continue holding their land and at the same time take part in business. If they do not want to be disturbed, they have no right to carry on business side by side. They should not be encouraged in this direction. They have no right to demand any share in services. When a zamindar does not like anybody to share his huge earnings on land, then what business has he to demand any share in services or in any other walk of life.

With these words, Sir, I support the resolution, now before the House with all the emphasis at my command.

**Chaudhri Sher Singh** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I am in agreement with the object of the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Mohan Lal Datta. Through this resolution, my hon. Friend wants that those who till the land with their own hands should be entitled to purchase it. Here I cannot do without making some reference to the Punjab Land Alienation Act. This Act was placed on the Statute Book simply with a view to safeguarding the interests of the poor land owners who cannot make their both ends meet and are thus forced by circumstances to dispose off their land. This Act debars the millionaires and the multi-millionaires from purchasing their land. Under the circumstances, if an amendment is proposed to be made to afford relief to the tillers of the land, it is but meet and proper on our part to welcome it. As a matter of fact, I have no words to express my full support to the resolution now before the House. But at the same time I fear there is some danger lurking in it. My hon. Friend Shri Mohan Lal Datta has made it abundantly clear in this resolution that the tiller of soil should be entitled to purchase land. My contention

[Chaudhri Sher Singh]

is this that according to the resolution as it stands, millionaires and multi-millionaires can quite easily succeed in purchasing land at different places from the poor zamindar by purchasing tractors and other modern agricultural implements. They will go to the extent of driving the tractors themselves and thus call themselves as the tillers of the soil. They can easily afford employing labour for helping them to bring their land at different places under tractor-cultivation. I may assure the hon. Members in general and the mover of the resolution in particular that the moneyed persons will not find it difficult to own as much land as they like.

So far as the question of affording relief to poor tenants is concerned, my hon. Friends know it full well that a Land Reforms Committee has already been set up on the basis of the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Waryam Singh only a few days back. It goes without saying that those persons who till land with their own hands should be afforded all possible facilities and this matter is already under the consideration of the Land Reforms Committee. Under the circumstances, when efforts are being made to devise ways and means to afford relief to the tillers of the soil, I do not think there is any justification on the part of the mover to press the resolution, now before the House. Thereby I do not doubt the intentions of the hon. Member. His intentions are very good, so far as his resolution is concerned. What I wish to point out is this that if he thinks over this matter dispassionately and also keeps the danger that is lurking in this resolution in view, I am sure, he will not have any hesitation in withdrawing it. He should not be unmindful of the fact that all these matters are under the consideration of the Land Reforms Committee which has been set up to improve the condition of the poor tenants. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that instead of pressing for the passage of the resolution, now before the House, we should await the decisions of this Committee and accept them. It is on principle that I oppose the resolution, now before the House, because I smell some danger lurking in it, to the effect that moneyed persons will succeed in depriving the poor persons who are by heredity tillers of the soil of their source of livelihood. Let me, however, bring this point home to the hon. Member



that the question of the abolition of zamindari system, the question of allowing those persons to purchase land who till it with their own hands and whose ancestors have been the tillers of soil, and all such other questions are already under the consideration of the Central Government. Under the circumstances, I would request my hon. Friend, Shri Mohan Lal Datta to withdraw his resolution.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to make a few observations in regard to the resolution, now before the House. I would also like to give my hon. Friend, Shri Mohan Lal Datta, the same advice, which has already been given to him by my hon. Friend, who just preceded me, to withdraw his resolution.

We are not unmindful of the fact that the future Constitution of our free India has already been drafted and is soon going to be passed by the Constituent Assembly. In fact, reference to it has already been made by the mover of the resolution. What I wish to point out is this that there already exists a clause in this Constitution under Fundamental Rights disallowing discrimination against any person on grounds of caste or creed. Any existing law which will be contrary to the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution will naturally get abolished. In the light of these facts the whole thing ends there and hence there would be no necessity to move such a resolution. In my opinion, this problem is no more a lively issue now.

If it is decided by the Constituent Assembly to continue the enforcement of the provisions of the Land Alienation Act or such other Acts, then of course the matter can be considered, otherwise there seems to be no necessity to do so at the present stage. However, I wish to make this point clear that under the Land Alienation Act, certain castes were declared Statutory Agriculturists and not all those who tilled land with their own hands. Now my hon. Friend, Shri Mohan Lal Datta, wants all the tillers of soil to be included in the category of the Statutory Agriculturists. If the proposed amendment is made in the Land Alienation Act through the resolution now before the House, I do not think there will be any improvement in the condition of the tillers of soil. Let me bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and the

[Minister for Development]

mover of the resolution in particular that this resolution will in no way be instrumental in abolishing zamindara system. The abolition of the zamindara system is quite different from the proposal made through the resolution now before the House. By the abolition of this system is meant that the tenant becomes the real owner of the land he tills with his own hands. Under the Land Alienation Act, there is a clear distinction between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. In this Act we find certain restrictions regarding sale, purchase and the alienation of land. It will not be out of place to mention here that this Act was passed to debar moneyed persons from purchasing the land of the poor zamindars. This Act was passed to protect the interests of those poor zamindars whose land was the only source of their livelihood. It has not been ascertained yet as to how far this Act has achieved the object for which it was passed. The main object of the Act was to give all possible protection to poor zamindars so that they might not be deprived of their land. So far it has not been ascertained as to what amendments should be made in the Land Alienation Act if the required object has not been achieved. But it has been experienced that this Act has put many obstacles in the way of those millionaires and multi-millionaires and also the moneyed zamindars to buy land and thus deprive the poor zamindars of their source of livelihood.

So far as the question of giving protection to the poor people is concerned, I am sure, my hon. Friends will agree with me on the issue that a poor zamindar should not be deprived of the land he tills with his own hands. If this Act does not achieve the object for which it was passed then amendments should be made in it to that effect. If this is done, I am sure, poor zamindars will not be deprived of their land, which is the only source of their livelihood.

So I think we should not for the present make any such amendment in the Punjab Land Alienation Act, as may make it easy for moneyed people to take away land from the hands of the real tillers of soil. This proposal cannot be considered by itself alone. It is replete with many possibilities which must also be considered before making any decision. Full investigation is necessary in such matters. It is easy to take an alluring and catchy slogan and bring it before the House in the form of a resolution. But it is quite possible that a proposal, which is outwardly alluring and appears to be innocuous, may have some hidden aspects, which though not visible at present,

might come to light later on, and cause more harm than good, when the proposal is put into effect.

It has been suggested that only tillers of soil should be considered agriculturists. Sir, I think while making this suggestion, certain things have been ignored. For instance, the soldiers cannot be expected to till their lands with their own hands. If they are not considered agriculturists because they do not till land themselves, would that not mean punishing them for having volunteered themselves for military service? Will it not be unjust to declare them non-agriculturists? Then take the case of widows belonging to agriculturist families. Is it considered proper and desirable to withdraw the protection afforded to them by the Land Alienation Act, simply because they do not cultivate their lands with their own hands? Sir, in my opinion if and when it is decided to declare all the tillers of the soil to be agriculturists, many saving and protective clauses will have to be inserted in the law relating to the sale, purchase or in other words alienation of land. Only then it will be possible to put into effect a legislative enactment, declaring all the tillers of the soil to be agriculturists. Without sufficient investigation into all the allied problems, I do not think it would be advisable to pass this resolution.

Sir, so far as the question of declaring Harijans and backward Sikh classes such as 'Randasis' as agriculturists is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that this demand has our full sympathy. But we think they cannot be declared 'agriculturists' without making an alteration in the existing law. This object cannot be achieved without amending the Punjab Land Alienation Act, and without adopting any new definition of the term 'agriculturist'. The Government is prepared to consider this matter very sympathetically. I think after the assurance given by me, Panditji would have no objection in withdrawing his resolution. Sir, if he is not willing to do so, I would request the hon. Members of the House to reject it.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Sir, the question be now put.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is -

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Pandit Mohan Lal:** I am not prepared to withdraw my resolution.

**Mr. Speaker :** Thus, of course, you have the right of reply.

**Pandit Mohan Lal** (Una, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I don't see any cogent reason why the demand made through this resolution should not be accepted. Only two arguments have been advanced in this connection. Firstly, it is apprehended that if the proposed amendment in the Punjab Land Alienation Act is made, the moneyed people would benefit from it. I wonder how the proposed amendment would redound to the advantage of moneyed people, when it is clearly stated in this resolution that only tillers of land—people who cultivate with their own hands—who are not at present regarded as statutory agriculturists, should be included in this category irrespective of the caste or group to which they might belong. Sir, in view of the clear phraseology of the resolution, I don't see any ground for such apprehensions. How can those who cultivate with their own hands be dubbed 'capitalists'? It is true that old prejudices were shed and such discrimination as between Jats (or Rajputs) and others, done away with. I admit it is a deep-rooted malady—I mean this prejudice which is behind such utterances as 'since we are Jats or Rajputs, we must have special concessions and privileges.' It appears that my Friends are not prepared to shake off this prejudice even now. May I ask them, Sir, in what way is a Harijan cultivator who tills the land, cultivates it with his own hands and earns his bread by the sweat of his brow different from a Jat or Rajput cultivator?

**Minister for Development :** But what way do you suggest to ensure that he is not deprived of his land?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Sir, I don't see any valid reason for this invidious distinction. Why should not a Brahmin who cultivates the land with his own hands be regarded as an 'agriculturist', while every Jat is considered to be an agriculturist? I can see only one reason why this distinction was created. Majority of Jats and the Rajputs were very loyal to the British and the latter could always bank on their help. The Land Alienation Act was passed to protect and promote their interests at the expense of others, so that they may remain supporters of the British. (*Interruptions*).

**An hon. Member :** Are they not fighting in Kashmir today?

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Another reason for passing this legislation was that the British wanted that land should remain in the hands of poor people, so that no improvements would be carried out and the country would not be able to produce sufficient food to feed its people.  
(Interruptions)

Sir, what I mean to say is that the British were actuated by ulterior motives in this matter. In the present circumstances, there is not the least justification for perpetuating this invidious distinction. It has been suggested to me that when the new Constitution comes into force, this distinction would cease to exist. Sir, I don't expect this Government to give the poor a fair deal under any circumstances. In the last session, too, a resolution was passed, in which the Assembly recommended to the Government to take steps to declare the Harijans proprietors of their 'abadis', but I regret to point out that nothing has so far been done to implement it. So I am justified in regarding this suggestion as an attempt to put off the matter.

I would again urge, Sir, that the existing distinction between agriculturists and non-agriculturists be abolished and instead all tillers of land, irrespective of their caste, be declared 'agriculturists'. It is far from my intention to suggest that all land should be taken from Jats and Rajputs and given over to Brahmin cultivators. What we want is that Brahmins who themselves till the land should not be debarred from purchasing land from their Jat brethren. They will, of course have to pay for it.

Sir, it is a very modest demand, that has been made through this resolution. (Interruptions).

**Mr. Speaker :** I ask the hon. Members not to interrupt.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** But it appears that no one is here prepared to give the poor a fair deal. While they are anxious to make 'Jatistan' in this Province, they are not prepared to allow even one single privilege to the poor cultivators of other communities who were deprived of it by the previous Government.

Apprehensions have also been expressed that if the proposed amendment is made in the Land Alienation Act, rich 'Brahmins' and 'Khatris' would purchase land from poor cultivators and take to

[Pandit Mohan Lal]

cultivation with the help of tractors and thus they would claim to be 'agriculturists'. This fear does not sound real. I doubt if even one per cent of the Brahmin, Khatri or Harijan cultivators, can afford to purchase tractors. What we want is that actual tillers of the land who are at present not considered 'agriculturists' should be included in the category of statutory agriculturists, irrespective of their caste. I may assure my critics that a large majority of them are Harijans – and it is they who will benefit from the proposed amendment in the Punjab Land Alienation Act.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to widen the scope of the definition of the term 'agriculturists' in the Punjab Land Alienation Act so as to include all the tillers of land in the category of statutory agriculturists irrespective of the caste or the group to which they might belong.

The Assembly divided : Ayes, 15 ; Noes 25.

AYES

1. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
2. Bhagat Ram Chodha Shri.
3. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
4. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
5. Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.
6. Faqir Chand, Pandit.
7. Gurbanta Singh, Master.
8. Krishna Gopal Dutt, The Hon. Chaudhri.
9. Lehna Singh Sethi, Dr.
10. Mohan Lal, Pandit.
11. Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
12. Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
13. Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
14. Sudarshan, Seth.
15. Virendra, Shri.



## NOES.

1. Ajit Singh, Sardar.
  2. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
  3. Beli Ram, Thakur.
  4. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
  5. Gurbachan Singh, Sardar.
  6. Isher Singh Mujhail, Sardar.
  7. Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
  8. Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
  9. Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
  10. Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
  11. Kartar Singh, The Hon. Sardar.
  12. Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
  13. Pancham Chand, Thakur.
  14. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati, Dr.
  15. Prem Singh, Mahant.
  16. Ranjit Singh, The Hon. Captain.
  17. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
  18. Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
  19. Sher Singh, Chaudhri.
  20. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
  21. Shiv Singh, Sardar.
  22. Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
  23. Tara Singh, Sardar.
  24. Udham Singh, Sardar.
  25. Waryam Singh, Sardar.
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**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** On a point of order, Sir ; I may point out that resolution 3 is the same as No. 10. I think when the hon. Member against whom resolution No 3 stands, is absent, the hon. Member against whom resolution No. 10 stands should be called upon to move it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry I cannot do it. I must follow the order in which the resolutions have been entered in the list.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** But both the resolutions, namely, No. 3 and No. 10 are identical.

**Mr. Speaker:** I know it. Next resolution please.

**Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural):

Sir, as the Government has issued a circular, in the light of which there is no necessity for the resolution(1) given notice of by me so I do not intend to move it.

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#### Compensation to Refugees.

**Shri Virendra** (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I beg to move:

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India that while this House fully appreciates and gratefully acknowledges every assistance and help rendered by the Government of India to rehabilitate uprooted millions from Western Pakistan, is of the opinion that the Government of India should accept moral and legal responsibility for the partition of India, and to take steps to compensate refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan have migrated to India.

Mr. Speaker, for some time past a controversy has been going on in our country as to who is responsible for the losses suffered by the refugees. In reality, the question has been before the public since the partition of India and enemies of the Congress have used it as a tool for discrediting the Congress by telling people that it is responsible for all their losses. At this stage, it is no use discussing the propriety or otherwise of accepting partition of the country. This is a *fait accompli*. Our leaders accepted the partition and the question that now arises is as to who is responsible for the heavy losses suffered by the refugees and how are they to be compensated. This question has assumed greater importance for sometime past. A refugee association of

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(1) This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps to refund all fines imposed on persons for their taking part in the National movements of 1921, 1930, 1932 and the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1942 in this Province.

Delhi wrote to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, our Prime Minister, that the Government should accept responsibility for their losses and should compensate them fully. In reply to it, Pandit ji said that he was doubtful about the Government being legally or morally responsible for the losses. This matter has formed the subject of a controversy for the last few months. It has been stressed in the press and from the platform that the Government should fully compensate the losses suffered by the refugees. So far as the Government is concerned, it has taken no step in this direction. I do not deny that the Government has tried to give considerable help to the displaced persons.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I ask the hon. Members to move to the lobbies to have private talks?

**Seth Sudarshan:** They are conspiring.

**Mr. Speaker:** No conspiracy of any kind please. You must maintain the dignity of the House.

**Seth Sudarshan:** They are not conspiring against you, Sir.

**Shri Virendra:** I was submitting that the question before us is as to who is responsible for the losses suffered by the people on account of partition of the country. Our leaders have disowned all responsibility for these losses. If this is so, who is responsible for it? Are these children, who lost their parents and are orphans now, responsible for these losses? Should the responsibility be on those ladies who have become widows or have lost all their kith and kin? Are those people who owned lakhs in the West Punjab but are penniless now, responsible for these losses?

There is no doubt that Hindus and Sikhs, who had to migrate from the West Punjab, had to suffer irreparable losses but still I feel that partition of the country was not a wrong decision. We may not realise it now, but after ten, twenty or fifty years, when history records its verdict, it may perhaps be admitted that to agree to partition was the right decision under the circumstances. It was impossible for us to live among followers of the Muslim League, who believed in the two nation theory. If partition had not been accepted, we could not have

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achieved success in Kashmir and the action which was taken in Hyderabad would not have been possible. In my opinion, we would have seen the same happenings taking place in our province, which were witnessed in China.

We should not unnecessarily go into the question, whether it was good to partition the country or not. Now that it is an accomplished fact, how are the losses suffered by refugees, who came from the West Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and East Bengal to be compensated? These losses were suffered by only those persons who lived in places which now form part of Pakistan. The rest of the country had nothing to lose. It gained all round on the achievement of independence.

Sir, I ask, is it not legitimate on their part to demand compensation particularly when all other Indians have benefitted at their cost? There was a time when the Punjabis were dubbed reactionaries and were regarded as a hurdle in the way of Indian Independence. But the events have falsified these allegations. I am proud to say that the Punjabis by their untold sufferings and sacrifices have rendered yeoman's service in the cause of Swaraj and it is now for the Indian Union and its people to make amends for their losses. They should see that every sufferer is properly settled and rehabilitated because otherwise the country will not know any rest.

Sir, our Prime Minister of the Indian Union, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, has said that now when partition has taken place with our own consent it is futile to talk of war with Pakistan. We certainly don't want to have war with Pakistan for its own sake. But I may tell the Prime Minister that this idea can only be completely given up when we people who have come from Pakistan, have been rehabilitated in such a way that we begin to forget the losses of our movable and immovable property. It is impossible for us not to think of taking revenge from Pakistan if compensation is not paid to us and we are not made comfortable in our new surroundings. I agree that today we may be weak and may not be able to fight to recover our lost belongings but I have no doubt in my mind that after some-time, say the next generation must muster sufficient strength and invade Pakistan. History plainly tells us that wars have to be fought for recovery of one's property and possessions. After all why did Hitler fight the second world war? He unequivocally gave out that

he wanted to recover the possessions of Germany which had been lost in the first world war. In these circumstances, I think that there is only one way of dissuading us from harbouring such ideas and it is this that our leaders should take some definite steps to make good our losses.

Sir, I would be guilty of ungratefulness if I say that Government of India has done nothing for the refugees. I know that some of my hon. Friends curse the Government for its apathy and indifference but I think they do so because they are affected. I do not agree with them. The Government of India has spent crores of rupees and has tried to help the uprooted and displaced people in many ways. But I must say that still much remains to be done. The Government has yet to give them something in lieu of what they have left behind so that they are able to start their lives afresh with a measure of respectability. The House will recall that some concrete suggestions were made by some hon. Members to achieve this end. One suggestion was that lotteries should be arranged to raise sufficient funds while another was that a liberty tax be imposed throughout India and the receipts utilized for rehabilitation of the refugees. But I am very sorry to say that these suggestions have been turned down. At any rate I fail to see the reason why a liberty tax should not be imposed on the whole of India which has got its independence at the cost of the brave Punjabis who have suffered immeasurable losses in life and property. To my mind it is the duty of every Indian to partake of their distress and render whatever help they can

Sir, I repeat that in case that Government of India and our leaders sincerely desire that we should not cherish any ill-will against Pakistan they should take full responsibility for compensating the people who have suffered on account of partition. With these words I commend the resolution to the House for acceptance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Resolution moved—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India that while this House fully appreciates, and gratefully acknowledges every assistance and help rendered by the Government of India to rehabilitate uprooted millions from Western Pakistan, is of the opinion that the Government of India should accept moral and legal responsibility for the partition of India and to take steps to compensate refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan, have migrated to India.

**Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I feel that my hon. Friend Shri Virendra has translated before this House in words the sentiments and feelings of over fifty lakhs of our sisters and brothers who had to face untold sufferings by way of losing lives, property and in some cases even honour on the partition of the Province. I consider that it is nothing short of ungratefulness on the part of those who without having shed even a single drop of their blood are not prepared to make any sacrifice for those who have paid the price of that independence, the fruits of which they are enjoying in full measure. We will be certainly disgracing the fair name of our country which is renowned for its spirit of sacrifice all the world over if we do not rise to the occasion and help our uprooted people in every possible way. No body should judge them by their present miserable condition. No doubt you may find some of them resorting even to beggary but they have surely seen much better days. There was a time when they used to feed thousands before feeding themselves. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that the bravery and boldness with which the Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan have sacrificed their all, demand that we should make an all out effort to compensate them.

I think, Sir, that some of the losses are irreparable even if the Government of India and the people should have the desire to make them good. But the monetary losses and the losses of property can be repaired, if the Government of India and its free people may so desire. **At least the financial difficulties of our displaced brethren can thus be removed.** Where as we should be thankful to them for the sacrifices **made by them** for Indian independence, the Government of India should also find out some way to help them. It can be done either by imposing a liberty tax or by making Pakistan Government to give more land for the resettlement of these brethren. Failing that, the Government of India can give them more land in U. P. and other Provinces. Whatever the way, the displaced people must be compensated for their losses incurred in Pakistan.

I think, nobody can disagree with this Resolution and as such there is no need of giving lengthy arguments to convince the hon. Members. I therefore, support this Resolution and hope that the Government of India will do something to help our displaced brethren.



**Shri Dev Raj Sethi** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, whereas the effect of this Resolution will be felt in other parts of the country, it will also attract notice in the West Punjab. I would, therefore, like to place all its implications before the House. The loss of life that our people incurred in Pakistan is irreparable. Lakhs of innocent people were killed and thousands dishonoured and humiliated. Our hearts are full of feelings of deep sorrow and shame. These losses of life and honour can in no way be made good.

The question, at present, before us, is regarding the giving of compensation to the people for their economic and monetary losses such as those of agricultural land, urban property and other movable property. This question of compensation has become a long and dreary tale. According to the losses incurred by the people on both sides of the border, the Hindus and Sikhs have left behind in the West Punjab property worth 1500 crores of rupees, while the Muslims have left here property worth only 300 crores of rupees. The difference is of rupees 1200 crores. Now ours is a poor Province faced with the question of life and death. As such, it is unable to make good all this huge loss.

Efforts were made to settle this question with the Pakistan Government. For this purpose dozens of Inter-dominion Conferences have been held both at Karachi and Delhi. At a conference held at Delhi, it was decided to form an estimate of the difference of agricultural land left in the two Punjabs. As a result of that a scheme was framed for the issuing of debentures by the Pakistan Government to the people of our Province in lieu of the land left by them in the west Punjab. After that, the scheme was discussed at the secretariat level and later on at the ministerial level also. Finally, the scheme was sent over to the late Qaide Azam Jinnah. He inquired the total amount for which the Pakistan Government would have to issue debentures. The scheme was still on its way to final discussion when Qaide Azam Jinnah himself passed away. Thus the scheme was shelved.

After sometime, there arose the question of the exchange of Urban property. In the beginning, it could not be decided whether the exchange should take place on the Government basis or on individual basis. Even after one and a half years, nothing has been done.

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

It was in January last that decision was arrived at for the exchange of urban property left by us in the West Punjab, Sind and Frontier Province with that left by Muslims in the East Punjab, U. P. etc. This agreement was to be put into effect from the first of February. But so far not a single case of exchange has been registered. The reason is that there have arisen new problems such as the payment of income tax and many other newly imposed taxes. Without the payment of all these taxes, the property cannot be disposed of. Any person who goes to the West Punjab from this side is not allowed to come back unless he pays the income tax and other taxes. Under these circumstances, people of our Province do not know what to do. The persons who rolled in wealth sometime back are today penniless. Whatever ray of light they see, is darkened by new clouds. Similar is the case with regard to the agricultural land. No decision has been arrived at so far. Besides nothing has been done with regard to the dues of crores of rupees that our people left behind in Pakistan in the form of pensions and securities in the numerous departments and spheres of life. As compared to that the Muslims had very small investments in the East Punjab. Now we learn that there will be held another inter-dominion conference at Delhi on the 2nd and 3rd of April. But every time, our representatives come away with the idea that the Pakistan Government and its people do not want to make up the difference of losses incurred in the two Dominions. Every time they raise one or the other objection to put off the matter.

Now the question is as to how long shall the people who are worried for their very existence, continue to wait for all these decisions about their property. When all the conciliatory methods fail, the last and the natural result is war. People are, now, losing patience and they are prepared for any eventuality. The Government of India, therefore, must satisfy them either by imposing a liberty tax or by some other method.

According to this resolution, the Government of India must accept moral and legal responsibility for the partition of India. I do not know whether the Government of India is legally bound to take this responsibility or not. But I am sure that it is its moral responsibility. The people who have suffered as a result of the partition have

suffered not for any fault of their own, but for a political act of the Government. There is, therefore, no reason why the whole of India should not share the losses thus incurred. Of course, it is for the lawyers to argue about the legal responsibility of the Government of India with regard to the compensation to be given to the refugees and the question may be judged by the Federal Court. But what I mean to say is that the moral responsibility must be with the Government of India. Indeed there is no denying the fact that it has to a large extent felt it and tried to extend whatever help it could towards their resettlement and rehabilitation. We are grateful for this generous help. The problem was titanic. When we go to see the condition of the camps of displaced persons, feelings of sorrow and pity overwhelm us. The uprooted persons yearn for speedy and permanent resettlement. When we consider what has been done and is being done for them, our heads come down with gratitude to the Government of India. Still I would like to submit that more help is needed, if we are to allay their sufferings. If need be, liberty tax may be imposed. Those who suffered as a result of partition must be fully compensated for the losses they suffered. Regarding exchange of property, I beg to submit, Sir, that the area covered by the Inter-Dominion agreement is small and it should be extended so that the difference of about 1200 crores of rupees between the property losses suffered by non-Muslims in Pakistan and Muslims in India may be made up.

Some of my friends who went to Karachi have come back with the impression that Pakistan Government knows no reason. In their talks they are clever people. The only thing they are afraid of while dealing with India is that any disorders here might result in migration of more Muslims to Pakistan and consequent pressure on their finances. I beg to submit that pressure should be put on Pakistan for a just and reasonable transfer of property. This should be carried out immediately at Government level. There should be no delay in this matter. At present many hindrances are being placed in such matters from Pakistan side. We should deal with them firmly. Mahatma Gandhi has taught us how to act with firmness while at the same time having due consideration for the rights of others. It is not our intention to snatch from Pakistan anything which is not ours by

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

right. But at the same time we cannot bear the pitiable sight of the uprooted people finding no houses and no lands here. We cannot look on silently at the condition of the refugees who have been turned out of their places and who now present a sight of moving graves with nothing but a faint ray of hope left in them. We cannot understand why Pakistan should place obstacles in the way of refugees getting their properties transferred. Delay is dangerous to all and useful to none. Who does not know that the First World War was the result of German occupation of the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine fortyfour years earlier? Unrest and discontentment remained ever since the occupation took place. The smouldering fire burst out into flames of war in 1914. The severance of the free city of Danzig from Prussia became the flame that ignited the Second World War. H. G. Wells, the famous historian, had predicted in 1932 that the war would break out in 1938-39 and Danzig would be the cause of it. Injustice and suppression of rights always create an explosive situation. It goes on smouldering for sometime but at last, the inevitable happens. The sighs of woe heaved by insulted women, the cries of horror raised by distressed children and the suppressed rage of the helpless youth never go in vain. Of course, we whole-heartedly thank the Government of India for the benevolent hand of help that they so kindly extended towards the displaced persons in their distress but we beg to submit that in the negotiations with Pakistan there is lack of urge on our part. No success crowns our efforts in bringing Pakistan to the path of justice and reason. In the coming Inter-Dominion Conference we should show firmness. Pakistan should be asked to settle accounts. Until this is done, day to day conferences should be held. Government of India should take steps to see that the poor displaced persons are fully compensated for the losses they suffered.

**Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:** (Ex-member west Punjab Assembly representing North Western towns, General, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the Muslim League party and Mr. M. A. Jinnah succeeded in their efforts to partition India into Muslim India and Hindu India. The consequent disorders and riots that occurred after partition are to a large extent responsible for much of our sufferings and it is the duty of the Government to see that the uprooted people are completely resettled. In war no Government can tolerate that persons coming from atom bombed areas may go about without any help or accommodation in their

own country. The Government of India should treat this calamity as nothing less than war itself and make arrangements for the compensation to be given to the displaced persons. When both the Governments can take upon themselves the right to property left by evacuees, why not accept the responsibility of providing for those who came as displaced persons? During the mass migration of people the Muslims going to Pakistan were searched in India and their property deposited in Government treasuries. Similarly the non-Muslims were searched by Pakistan Government. We find that this private property is being sold by the Government. The things may be bought by the refugees and price charged may be meagre but the question is that the Governments reserve to themselves the rights to the private property of the displaced persons. But unfortunately they have left comparatively less movable and immovable property here in this province. But even if they had left more property, I am sure, Government would not have distributed it amongst the refugees from West Punjab. They would not have even thought of making good their losses by providing them in the same ratio. On the other hand, Government would have owned the whole property and would not have provided them with anything. I am sure, hon. Members will agree with me when I say that it is the bounden duty of the Central Government to take upon themselves the moral and legal responsibility of making good their losses. After all it is not a big thing. They can come to our rescue only if they have a will to do so. It will not be out of place to mention here that according to their calculations only 2 per cent of the total population has migrated to India. It is quite an ordinary thing for them to rehabilitate these uprooted refugees who according to their calculations do not exceed 2 per cent of the total population. If they have rehabilitated about a few thousand refugees, they have not done anything big. On the other hand, if they had compensated this so-called 2 per cent population with half of their losses, they would have surely been satisfied to some extent.

My hon. friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi has pointed out in the course of his speech as to why the Government of Pakistan should not be asked to compensate refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan, had been forced to migrate to India. But I wish to submit that we have nothing to do with that Government. It is the Central Government alone which should accept both moral and legal responsibility to take steps to compensate our refugee brethren. It will not be out of



[Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi]

place to mention here and it goes without saying that our brethren from West Punjab have paid a very high price for the liberty of India which is being enjoyed by the rest of the people of our country. They have made the biggest sacrifice at the alter of freedom. Our Central Government have not done anything extraordinary by spending some amount on the refugees from west Punjab. We do not demand any compensation for those kith and kin who have been killed in the battle-field of our freedom and whom we have lost for ever. But what we want at present is that the Central Government should take the entire responsibility of making good the losses of our brethren who after having lost everything and after having experienced great hardships and tribulations, have managed to cross the border into the Indian Union alive. After all our Government at the Centre should make it a point to do all that can be possible to compensate at least those of our brethren who have managed to reach alive into the territory of the Indian Union. In fact it is in their interests to help them. This goes without saying that in the annals of the History no country in the world except ours has ever suffered such a heavy loss both in property and life. Our refugee brethren have been deprived of their movable and immovable property and also their kith and kin. In fact they have lost everything and they are now at a loss to know what to do and where to go. By losing their kith and kin they have suffered a tremendous loss. It is high time that our Central Government rose to the occasion and did at least something to compensate their material loss. Here I am reminded of instances where differences on petty issues have developed into family feuds for many generations together. It has often been experienced that when a child, who, while playing, is deprived of his toy by one of his playmates, complains to his parents about it. His parents pick up quarrels with the parents of the other child for depriving their child of the toy and as a result of this the embittered relations between these two families develop into big family feuds for generations together without caring to know that their differences were based on trivial matters. When we see that big family feuds develop on trivial matters, in the same way our children will harbour suspicions about the actions of our Government and they will have reasons to believe that grave injustice had been done to us. Our future generations would be justified for not having any soft corner for the people of India when they will hear our tales of woe, how we suffered and sacrificed our everything at the alter of freedom and yet there was nobody to sympathise with us or render any



help to us or even give us a little solace by a few encouraging words. If our Central Government do not take any steps to compensate our refugee brethren, I am sure, a sense of disgust and hatred will crop up in the minds of our children who will think in the heart of their hearts that in spite of our biggest sacrifices for the freedom of our country, no help, whatsoever, had been rendered to us. Unfortunately there is something wrong with our society in this country. Time will not be far off when there will be all round reaction in the minds of our future generations which will ultimately result in hatred and disgust for the people of our country for not coming to our rescue at a critical hour. It will not be out of place to mention here that the existence of such elements of hatred in our society had been instrumental in the creation of Pakistan within our country.

If justice is not done to these 50 or 60 lakhs of our refugee brethren who have lost their everything and who do not know what to do and where to go, and are not compensated for all the losses suffered by them, I am sure, it will leave a bad taste in the mouth of the coming generations. They would go to the extent of cursing the people of this country for not rendering us any help in the hour of misery and want. What I, therefore, wish to point out is that it is quite an easy thing for the Central Government to compensate our refugee brethren. Surely it is not a big thing for a person to pay /4/- to us out of a sum of Rs. 100/- which he has with him. In fact he would not and at the same time should not mind to pay this little sum of annas /4/- when he knows it for certain that this little sum is meant for those people who have rendered great service to the country even in the past before the partition. It will not be out of place to mention here that in the event of any famine, earthquake or plague or such other natural calamities, the people of West Punjab, who at the moment unfortunately themselves need every help, used to go to the farthest end of the country with help in money and men. But today these very people have no bread to eat, no clothes to wear and no place to live in. There will be hardly any instance to prove that we ever hesitated in responding to the clarion call for helping the needy before the partition of the country. But today when we have ourselves fallen a prey to misery and want for no fault of ours, our cries for help go unheeded. Here I must acknowledge with some gratitude the little help that we have received at their hands so far, but even enemies render help to each other at the time of need. If the Central Government have rendered

[Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi]

any help, they have not done anything extraordinary. I have experienced myself in Pakistan during the recent disturbances how Muslims of certain villages bandaged the wounds of non-Muslims who only a few minutes before were stabbed by them. They served them water and went to the extent of carrying them to the hospital. I am not at the same time unmindful of the fact how we terribly suffered at the hands of the people in Pakistan. But what I want to submit is this that even enemies realise to do their little bit after cooling down a little, to save the life of their enemy lying on the death-bed. But these things can be possible only when there is some real feeling in our minds. I am a large-hearted and a liberal-minded person and I cannot do without saying this that grave injustice is being done to us. If this state of affairs continues, and all out efforts are not made to make good our losses, I am sure disappointment and dissatisfaction will continue to be harboured in our minds against them. We may live miserably or die miserably but the disgust and the disappointment will always be there. This is not all. So long as our demands are not conceded, I am sure, the question of jats and non-jats, refugees and non-refugees will continue to gain ground to the detriment of our country in general and our province in particular. Here I cannot do without saying this that it is just possible that the local residents of our province or in other words the non-refugees may not be having any hatred against us but I think we have no soft corner for them because of the fact that they did not render the help which was expected of them to us who had come from West Punjab. This is quite natural. It is the bounden duty of the Central Government to come to our rescue and thus accept moral and legal responsibility of making good our losses. In fact they should try to rise to the occasion in the interests of Law and Order and thus do something substantial in this direction. I do not deny the fact that Government may not be in a position to incur so much expenditure. In that case they should not have objected to the suggestion regarding the imposition of liberty tax and the arrangement of raising money by lottery. If our provincial Government had raised money by means of lottery, I am sure, we would have succeeded in collecting millions of rupees which could have been distributed among the refugees.

There is no doubt about it that the Central Government are spending huge amounts on the rehabilitation of the refugees. They have already accepted the moral responsibility. What we want is that they should accept the legal responsibility for making good our

losses. If this is done, I may assure them, through you, Sir, that we would not be found wanting in befriending them. If our Central Government continue spending on the rehabilitation for 6 or 7 years more, I am sure, the amount thus spent would not be less than the total amount of our losses. So far as the question of our movable and immovable property left by us in West Punjab is concerned, we have nothing to do with it. It is the business of the Central Government. They may exchange it with the Pakistan Government or sell it through official agencies to West Punjab Government or purchase the property of Muslims left in this province. It is their lookout and we are not concerned with it. Even if we are not compensated with equal proportion, we may at least be given annas 4 for every rupee, so that we may be able to make our both ends meet.

Sir, I have expressed my sentiments about this matter. I do not want to take more time, since there is no necessity of giving many arguments. I believe that mere passing of this resolution won't do. I would urge upon the Government that whenever they send representatives to any meeting arranged by the Government of India, whether at Secretariat level or Ministerial level, it should take care to instruct them to say there frankly that the Punjabis must be given full compensation for their losses, not out of charity or pity but as a matter of right.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):

Sir, I have not risen with the intention of telling the Government of India, of course through this Government, that it is in their own interests that refugees get some compensation for their losses and live a contented life. I am of the opinion, Sir, that we are entitled to demand compensation from the Government of India. We are told that they are not prepared to accept moral and legal responsibility in this matter. May we ask them as to whether all that has been and is being done for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, is just by way of charity, and out of mercy and kindness? While discussing the question of the responsibility of the Government of India in this House today, arguments based both on facts as well as sentiments have been advanced by my hon. Friends who have

(Shri Behari Lal Chanana)

spoken before me. I would like to discuss this matter on historical and constitutional plane, in an effort to find some basis for our demand that the Government of India is legally responsible for our losses.

Sir, as you know, when the British announced their decision to transfer power to the Indians, an Interim Government was formed at the Centre. After this, the British announced a deadline for transference of power and the later events have proved that they remained true to their promise. Before the quitting of the British, it had however, become clear that as no agreement with the Muslim League was possible the only alternative was the partition of the country. At that time, Sir, it ought to have been decided by our leaders that the price of freedom will have to be paid equally by all the people living in India, and that if any thing happened as a result of the partition, its consequences will not have to be faced by the people of only those provinces which were to be partitioned.

After having had a bad experience of the tactics of the Muslim Leaguers in the Interim Government and finding it impossible to work with them, the leaders of the Congress decided to accept the partition, as the only way of attaining independence with the minimum loss. Partition was not something that was thrust upon them from above or which came as a bolt from the blue. It was a solution of their own choice and was the result of a mutual agreement. Our leaders in accepting partition, were motivated by the desire of saving the country, by cutting only a part of it. This decision was arrived at after sufficient thought and deliberation. They knew full well what they were doing. When the resolution on the partition was being discussed in the All India Congress Committee, I was also present there as a visitor. I remember very well the speech that was made by Pandit Pant on that occasion. In the course of his speech, he said that the acceptance of the Cabinet Mission scheme would mean the acceptance of Muslim League domination in the Punjab and in fact the whole of India. He suggested that if a part of the country was cut off, the rest of it would be saved from this evil. Now these words of Pandit Pant, who is a prominent agent of the Government of India, whom I have no hesitation

in calling 'Defendant No. 1,' corroborate my statement that partition was not thrust upon our leaders but was a solution of their own choice and was decided upon after fully weighing the pros and cons of the situation. Sir, what I mean to stress is that by accepting partition deliberately, the Congress leaders who were then, as now, in the Government of India and were the signatories to the partition agreement, took upon their shoulders direct responsibility for its consequences, and are, therefore, legally bound to pay compensation for the part they decided to cut off.

Now there are two more points which have to be taken into consideration in this connection. What else could be the result of the partition and the creation of a State based on religion, than the accentuation of communal hatred and the impossibility of religious minority to live in that State? The country was partitioned specifically with the object of giving the Muslims a State, which they might be able to govern according to their own principles. How could it then be assumed that Hindus and Sikhs would continue to live there?

It can be said, now, that all facts were before us and the decision about partition was announced on June 3, 1947, and that we could ourselves draw this conclusion at that time and arrange to remove our movable property from West Punjab in time. I submit, Sir, it does not lie in the mouth of those people to say this thing now—people who advised us to stick to our places fearlessly and make no attempt to transfer our property. It was this very 'Defendant' who ordered us not to leave our homes and dissuaded us from transferring our movable property, when yet there was time for it. The result was that we have had to leave behind every thing, when the partition actually came about. Sir, I do not want to make only a general allegation. I would like to give concrete evidence in this connection.

Sometime before the partition, the Iron and Steel Stock holders Association, whose registered office was at Lahore and who had at that time Rs. 25 lakhs worth of stock with them wanted to transfer it to some place in East Punjab. They applied for permission to Rajaji (who was at that time Minister-in-charge of Industries and Civil supplies) because the control and distribution of steel was at that time directly in the hands of the Government



[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

of India. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that the permission was refused. Secondly we had written to him to allow us to arrange for the removal of stock from Lahore and to permit us to set up a yard at some place in East Punjab. Before quoting from the reply that was given to this application, I might mention, Sir, that hitherto such applications invariably used to be sanctioned. In the reply given by the Government of India it was indirectly suggested that the Association should not transfer its office or stock or do anything of the sort. The exact wording was "you should not do anything that might embarrass the mutual relations of the successor Governments"

Sir, this is on record. Now, if we can produce such letters written on behalf of the Government of India and such other evidence of the manner in which they prevented us from migrating from West Punjab before the 15th August, 1947, in a law court, I am sure we would be able to get our claim for compensation established.

Secondly, Sir, we can get our claim established on grounds of human rights — a plea which in this age, carries much weight and is commanding universal regard. If the Government of India, to-day, is so keen in conforming to the strict letter of the international law, that it is hesitating to assume full liberty in carrying on Kashmir war and considers it essential to consult U. N. O. before taking any steps to save its territory from aggression, and appears to have taken sole responsibility upon its shoulders for upholding human rights, why can't we—the victims of partition, for which those who are in power to-day were responsible, appeal to the International Court for justice in the name of human rights? Whether Pakistan is willing to give us compensation or not, is a different matter. We are concerned with what the Government of India is prepared to do for us. I have marked one thing in all the decisions and agreements that have so far been arrived at between the two dominions. In none of them, these Governments have indicated any intention of taking upon themselves full or partial responsibility for compensating the refugees.

Sir, the Pakistan Government may give any compensation or not but we should treat the Government of India as Defendant No. 1. This is for the Government to decide how to make the



payment. In the end, I would submit that according to the Marshall Plan when about 1½ millions of displaced persons came back after the war, the Government of India made contribution in order to rehabilitate them properly. There appears to be no justification that in face of the principles of Marshall Plan, the demand for compensation by the displaced persons from Pakistan is not accepted. I think it my duty to urge upon the Government to consider over the question of awarding compensation to refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan have migrated to India. This demand is quite legitimate and it must be acceded to. The interests of refugees at least demand that the principle of compensating these sufferers is rightly recognised though the compensation may be awarded at a later stage. Those who occupy ministerial benches in the provincial Government or Central Government express deep concern over the incalculable loss of property suffered by the refugees in consequence of the vivisection of the country but if we in the grim hour of our misfortune raise the question of compensating our losses, there is a tendency to mistake our move as uncalled for attempt calculated to create doubts in the masses. The following verse aptly applies in our case.

ਇਸ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਮੇਂ ਹਮਾਰੀ ਤਰਹ ਕੋਈ ਬਰਬਾਦ ਨ ਹੋ

ਦਿਲ ਤੋ ਰੋਤਾ ਹੋ ਮਗਰ ਹੋਣੇ ਪੇ ਫਰਜ਼ਾਦ ਨ ਹੋ ।

इस दुनियां में हमारी तरह कोई बरबाद न हो ।

दिन तो रोज़ा हो मगर हाँसों पे फ़रज़ाद न हो ॥

[At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by  
Mr. Deputy Speaker].

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the East Punjab Government fully recognise the importance of the resolution which is at present under discussion before the House. I hope you will appreciate that it is not an easy task for the Government to compensate the displaced persons from the West Punjab or other parts of the Western Pakistan for the tremendous losses they have sustained by migration. They

[Minister for Home and Revenue] .

are martyrs in the cause of Indian freedom. They have left behind their hearths and homes and have undergone incalculable suffering so that the country should be free. In these circumstances, it is the duty of the Indian Government to award compensation to the sufferers for the property left behind by them in Pakistan. The Government evolved out many schemes to achieve this object but that is a separate question. I realise that the Central Government or other provincial Governments have made superhuman efforts to give relief to these refugees but they pale into insignificance when compared with the magnitude of losses they have suffered in Pakistan following the partition. If the problem has not been solved to the entire satisfaction of the refugees, it is not because there was any lack of sincere desire of the Government to push forward the programme of rehabilitation with determination and vigour, but that is due to the gross inadequacy of financial resources of the Government. It is, therefore, difficult for the Government to enunciate clearly its policy with regard to the question raised in the resolution. I may inform the House that Indian Government have already entered into negotiation with the Pakistan Government to get a fair value for the property left behind by the refugees in Pakistan. In the Inter-Dominion Conference the demand has been insistently and persistently made by the Government of India for compensation and it has been made clear to them that unless the question of evacuee property is not solved to the satisfaction of all concerned, it will be difficult to place Indo-Pakistan relations on a footing of cordiality and friendship. The Government is contemplating to find out a just solution of the problem and would never reconcile itself to the position that the evacuee property should fall into the hands of other Government without reasonable settlement of this question. I may assure the House that the East Punjab Government have always acknowledged the need for compensating refugees for the heavy losses they have suffered. We must make this demand to the Pakistan Government to render all account of the movable and immovable property of emigrants from Pakistan. An Inter-Dominion Conference was held sometime back and another conference will take place shortly. This question will again be taken up on Governmental basis in the coming conference to be held on 2nd

or 3rd April 1949. So far as the Provincial Governments are concerned, our position is quite clear that every possible effort should be made to compensate the loss of our unfortunate brethren who have suffered as a result of the partition plan. It is only in this way that we can alleviate their sufferings and assuage their lacerated hearts.

**Sardar Dalip Singh Kang:** Question may now be put, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Question is-

That the question may now be put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Question is-

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India that while this House fully appreciates, and gratefully acknowledges every assistance and help rendered by the Government of India to rehabilitate uprooted millions from Western Pakistan, is of the opinion that the Government of India should accept moral and legal responsibility for the partition of India, and to take steps to compensate refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan have migrated to India.

*The motion was carried.*

#### SHARE OF RURAL POPULATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

**Sardar Gurbachan Singh**(Ferozepore West, Sikh, Rural) *Punjabi* :  
I move-

In view of the paucity of members of rural population in Government service, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps (i) to issue orders directing that recruitment to all services in the Province be made in such a manner as to ensure that rural population get their share according to population in all branches of administration, including admission to professional and technical institutions (ii) constitute a board consisting of five members (four rural and one urban) for recruitment to subordinate services on the above basis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties of rural people in the matter of recruitment to services. No effort has been made to redress their grievances and having been disappointed, they feel that the Government is not doing justice to them. As we have no press or platform through which we may voice our grievances, we are feeling a sense of frustration. These persons who constitute eighty seven per cent of the population have not been given posts

[S. Gurbachan Singh]

in that proportion, in any Government department. Urbanites have captured almost all the posts and there is none to promote the interests of rural population. This is an onslaught on the rights of the rural people. Instead of helping and encouraging them, the urbanites discourage and mislead the rural person who may be appointed in their offices.

I do not deny that in advanced countries, recruitment to services is made through competition. Merit and efficiency should remain the basis of selection and we, too, are prepared to sit in competitive tests, but these should not be made an excuse for depriving us of our rights. Rural people are becoming conscious of their rights and I shall request the Government to safeguard their interests by recruiting them in services in proportion to their population. All rural persons, be they Hindus, Sikhs Muslims Harijans or Jats are meted out the same treatment. If the Government does not take steps to improve these conditions, results will be dangerous. Rural people can no longer tolerate the denial of their just rights. It is the duty of advanced people to raise the backward classes. I propose that a board be constituted to look after the interests of rural people in the matter of recruitment to services.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resolution moved—

In view of the paucity of members of rural population in Government services, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps (i) to issue orders directing that recruitment to all services in the province be made in such a manner as to ensure that rural population get their share according to population in all branches of administration including admission to professional and technical institutions, (ii) to constitute a board consisting of five members (four rural and one urban) for recruitment to subordinate services on the above basis.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) Sir, today I am delighted to find that the principles on which the Late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram used to work have found support in the form of the present resolution. His spirit was noticeable in the resolution discussed just now.

**An hon. Member:** His spirit is working through the hon. Member.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** I regret that I did not get an opportunity of speaking on the last resolution, otherwise I would have told the hon. Members, how the just rights of zamindars are being ignored. Up to this day these people have been suppressed. The resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh is an expression of the genuine views of rural people. For the last one and a half year, since the present Government came into existence, it has paid no heed to the difficulties of these people. I shall be told that they did not have time to do these things, but, Sir, there are a number of Ministers in the Cabinet, who represent the rural people. When these Ministers claim to be the representatives of rural people, they should not be unmindful of their duty towards them. What praise can these people have for the Government, which has done nothing for their benefit.

Sir, there has always been a lot of controversy on the question of recruitment to services. Sometime we had to hold the balance between the Hindus and the Muslims and at another between the Hindus and Sikhs. But luckily the resolution before us is free from all communal bias and aims at benefiting and uplifting all these who may be living in villages and are backward. I wish to point out to the House that a very large population of our province which resides in the villages is in fact the backbone of our nation and nobody dare undermine their position. In times of war it takes up the sword in defence of the country and goes to distant lands to beat the enemy and keep him a bay. In days of peace when the sword is turned into a plough-share, it wrestles and fights with the earth to produce food for all of us. It will, therefore, be an act of treachery not only to these people but to the country as a whole if we do not properly represent the grievances of these benefactors of our land. Our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi always emphasised the importance of prosperity of the rural people as in his opinion a dissatisfied peasantry would prove a millstone around the country's neck. He would go to the extent of suggesting that the Premier of India should be a kisan, a tiller of land. The great Mahatma was certainly in the right. Our Government cannot afford to ignore the interests of a people who form the main prop of the State. But why it is doing so passes my comprehension.



[Ch. Suraj Mal]

In the past about 66 per cent of new posts used to go to the rural people but now their proportion is not even 10 per cent. They are not being given their proper share in any Government Department. Let us take the case of Civil Supplies and Rehabilitation Departments as an example. Thousands of posts have been filled in these departments but very few of them have been offered to persons hailing from villages. It is a very sorry state of affairs. Whenever a complaint is made to the Government in this behalf, recourse is had to the ideal of recruitment on merit. We know it is a good ideal but I don't think it is possible to stick to it if we are not able to provide the same facilities in the villages as are available in the towns. The village boys and girls do not have the aid of first rate schools and colleges, books, libraries etc. So if they cannot come up to the standard of studies in the towns it is not their fault and we should therefore not make a fetish of the merit formula. However, it should not be taken to mean that village people possess inferior brains. I am, on the other hand, prepared to go to the extent of saying that the greatest men of the world have hailed from the rural areas. They are in no case inferior to urbanites. No doubt they are at times a little backward but that is due to absence of opportunities and facilities. Anyhow I am sure that efficient men with requisite qualifications are always available in the villages and they must be encouraged. (*Some hon. Members :* They are encouraged.) Yes, perhaps they are encouraged in the Jullundur Division but so far as Ambala Division is concerned, we have a bitter experience. We have been altogether ignored. Similar is the fate of Kangra and Hoshiarpur Districts which are full of rural population.

Sir, I recommend the recruitment of the village folk from another point of view as well. I think only the village men can appreciate and understand the difficulties of the villagers. The urban people who work in the rural areas instead of sympathising with them ridicule them and laugh at them. This is something reprehensible and should be put an end to at the earliest possible moment. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution with all the force that I can command.

**Sardar Tara Singh** (Ferozepore south, Sikh, rural) (*Punjabi*):

Sir, I have stood up to support this resolution. My hon. Friend



Chauthri Suraj Mal has said a good deal about it and I corroborate every thing that he has said. It is really very strange to find that about 95 per cent of the total Provincial Receipts of Rs. 14,00,00,000 comes from the rural people in the form of land revenue, water rates and other taxes but crores of rupees are spent on beneficent Departments which mostly cater for the urban people. Usually schools, colleges, hospitals etc, are set up in the towns and not in the villages. It is the towns people only who make use of these institutions. And this is the reason why the children of the urban people can get good education without much expense. The village people on the other hand cannot afford to send their boys and girls to the cities and they, therefore, cannot be properly brought up. In these circumstances, the urban students find it very easy to steal a march over them in competitive examinations. It is, therefore, necessary that their interests in services should be safeguarded by the Government. As this resolution exactly wants to achieve this end I strongly support it.

**Sardar Shiv Saran Singh** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have no mind to take up much time of the House and shall support the resolution with a few words. I wish to point out that this resolution is in confirmity with one of the high ideals of our State namely, that equal opportunities should be afforded to all citizens. At present we find that all facilities or amenities of life, for example, schools, colleges, palatial residential houses, electricity etc., exist for the benefit of the urbanites while the rural people go without them. The same, I should say, is the case with services. The percentage of the urban people in all Government departments is far greater than that of the ruralites. The village folk are not given adequate opportunity to get into services. Their condition is more or less exactly the same as that of Harijans for the uplift of whom many of us take up cudgles at times. Like the Harijans they also form a backward and tyrannized section of our population, which consists of members of all communities *i.e.*, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Harijans etc. They in the circumstances deserve a special and preferential treatment at the hands of the Government. The resolution which is before the House is certainly calculated to benefit all these rural people irrespective of their religion or community. It will not give rise to any communal disputes. Therefore I request

[S. Shiv Saran Singh]

the House that it should accept it as it will prove useful for the province as a whole.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mall has pointed out that there prevails now the spirit of the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram in this House. But I would like to point out that Chaudhri Chhotu Ram made it a point to appoint one Harijan for every four Hindus that he appointed in Government services, while this Government of ours has appointed people belonging to rural areas on all the posts. Most of the Ministers are themselves ruralites. I am at a loss to understand how and where the rural people are being deprived of their rights. For instance, take the Police Department. It is under the Minister who is a zamindar. We, the Harijans, have suffered most at the hands of this Department. After the recent upheaval in our country, favouritism, nepotism and corruption have been rampant everywhere in Government services. The Government officers have vied with each other in helping their own kith and kin. It is very sad that the Harijans have got no representation in this Department and whenever I point out this fact, I am told that it is a communal question. Is it not communal to raise the question of rural and urban population? As a matter of fact, no class, whether rural or urban, deserves any preferential treatment except the Harijans.

It has also been said that the villages have produced great men. That means that the villages are better off than the cities, because the people in the villages have milk to drink and butter to eat. They have therefore, clear heads. As such they do not deserve any preferential treatment. Besides, they are making huge profits by selling their wheat at 30 rupees a maund at this time. It would have been proper for them to pay thousands of rupees in the form of taxes to the Government. But they have done nothing of the sort. They are exploiting the situation to the full, yet they are crying for more. They have overwhelming majority in every Department of the Government. For instance, take the Rehabilitation Department. The agriculturist officials have made things extremely difficult for the Harijans. In the United Punjab, Muslims were in overwhelming majority in Government services and now their places have been taken by the Hindu and Sikh officials.

We have absolutely no representation in the Police Department. After the partition of the country, the Harijans have suffered the most. Their girls have been kidnapped and women folk dishonoured. Whenever I raise this question, it is said that it is a communal question and as such it cannot be discussed. But I may say that the Harijans have never suffered so much as after the attainment of independence by our country. If this state of affairs continues, we shall ourselves be inviting communism.

Swami Vivekananda at one time said, "I was born as a Hindu, the brain was not Hindu and it won't die as a Hindu."

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please speak to the Resolution.

**Chaudhri Sundar Singh :—**India has always been the place of capitalism.

No religion teaches so lofty and high ideals as Hinduism and yet no religion has strangled the low people as much as Hinduism.

I would like to sound a note of warning to the people at the helm of affairs that they should mend their ways and should help the poor. Otherwise they would be inviting communism. Under the pretext of giving preferential treatment to the rural people, the rights of the poor Harijans are being usurped. I can say that we would have been no more if the urban people had not given us shelter. I know the treatment that has been meted out to us in the villages. That was not at all friendly. If there had been no Congress Party in our country the Harijans would have been finished. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that to indulge in such talk of rural and urban people, is to go away from the Congress ideals. Mahatma Gandhi himself did the meanest job of sweepers and he succeeded in overthrowing the mighty British Imperialism. Even now the people at the top should follow his example in order to save themselves. (*Hear, hear*). The Harijans have suffered most in the villages. They have been reduced to serfs. I therefore, oppose this resolution with all the force at my command. The Harijans must get key posts. At present, they have no representation in the Rehabilitation Department. I submit that the Harijan should be appointed in all the departments of the Government. The Government should try to follow the example of Mahatma Gandhi who according to his will has left 25 per cent of his income of the Nav Jivan Press for the Harijans. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-member west Punjab Assembly representing south east Multan Division, General, rural (*Hindustani*): Sir, with your permission I wish to say a few things in connection with this resolution. It is a matter of surprise that this resolution intends to provide safeguards for those who constitute eighty per cent of the population. I have never heard eighty per cent of the population demanding safeguards anywhere. I admit that villages are the back bone of India and that at present they do not enjoy as many amenities as the urban people have the good luck to enjoy. It is the first and the foremost duty of a Government to provide all sort of comforts to the rural population. Nobody can deny that. If any one says that the backwardness of the village folk should not be removed, no roads be constructed in rural areas, no educational or medical facilities be given to them, he is a fool. Government exist for the good of all. We quite agree with the fact that progress in this direction is essential and desirable and that the Government should try to raise the standard of living of the backward people. We quite understand that it is the duty of a peoples' Government to spend its finances, pay attention and give patronage to the backward classes in a balanced manner. But the question of creating discrimination between various classes of people cannot be understood. Discrimination leads inevitably to a sense of separation. We have already paid a heavy price for this in the form of partition of India. Somehow or other separatist feelings got into the minds of Muslims and we drifted towards partition. We had a hope that at least after the partition discriminations will vanish. But we find it otherwise. Those very people who followed the ideals of the Congress are going astray. We take pride in the service of the poor. The ideal of the Congress was to create a classless society. But there are some who bring forth a resolution which is exactly against the Congress ideals and goes against the very spirit of the Congress manifesto (*voices* : No. no) Sir, my submission is that Congress ideals are being thrown to the winds. The hon. Members can themselves decide whether they are doing the right thing or not.

**An hon. Member:** Villages have been neglected. So we want that there should be 'Gram Sudhar.'

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana:** I admit that there should be 'Gram Sudhar.' Indeed, who can deny this? The hon. Member was not in his seat when I said so. There is no loud speaker here to enable him to hear my voice even outside the House.

most emphatically expressed my views on the question. I shall be very glad if the Government launches schemes for the benefit of these rural population. But no such legislation should be passed which creates class distinctions. Discriminatory treatments and separatist tendencies were responsible to a large extent for our slavery. Those who wish to create such distinctions are not following the programme laid down by the Indian National Congress. The other day the hon. Minister for Development told the House that members should not lose patience as the new Constitution will soon come into force. In the chapter on Fundamental Rights, it is laid down that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste or sex. This argument is given not for the sake of argument only. I would like to point out that the population of those whom this resolution seeks to arm with safeguards is no less than eighty per cent. Moreover, we are going to have adult franchise shortly under the new Constitution. I leave it to the good sense of those who will be returned in an overwhelming majority, to consider what they are going to do for the urban minority. Men from rural areas are going to have a clear majority. So why should they entertain any fears and misgivings? Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the principle involved in this resolution. Had they got any doubts in their minds about the fundamentals of the new Constitution and their position in it, they could have gladly passed this resolution. But under the circumstances as they are, I don't find any need for this resolution which seeks to increase class distinctions. This is a sort of notice to the urban minority. Safeguards are to be provided for the majority. This is a sort of no-confidence against the majority by the majority itself.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair).*

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh):

Sir, so far as the question of framing any rules regarding the recruitment to services is concerned, the East Punjab Government has not yet taken any decision. After partition we have been thinking as to what should be the basis of making recruitment to services which should ensure efficiency and also should be such as not to cause any heart-burning or dissatisfaction amongst any section of the people. Various formulae have been suggested and



[Minister for Home and Revenue]

have been under the consideration of the Government. It is true that in joint Punjab certain proportion had been fixed for various communities and there were indications which provided certain reservations either direct or implied for agriculturists as against non-agriculturists. Our Government has not yet taken any fresh decision on this point. As you are aware, Sir, this point has been mooted on the floor of the House in the form of question, etc. It must be recognised that there must be certain minimum standard of efficiency and qualifications to entitle any one to aspire for Government service and consistent with that fundamental and guiding principle, it is not the intention of the Government to effect recruitment in any manner which might cause hardship or heartburning to any section of the people. As to what is the best way of assuring different classes of people that their rights will not suffer in any way is something about which no final decision has been taken. All I can do at this stage is that I can assure the hon. Members that Government is fully alive to the need of doing full justice to those sections of the population who have not so far found adequate representation in the services. In fact, as I have already stated, Government is giving its active and careful attention to this question and it would make every endeavour to see that everybody in the Province aspiring for Government service, gets the fullest opportunity to achieve his object on the basis of a certain minimum standard of qualifications required for the efficient running of the administration.

**Hon. Members :** Question be now put, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*



**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :—

In view of the paucity of members of rural population in Government service, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps (i) to issue orders directing that recruitment to all services in the Province be made in such a manner as to ensure that rural population get their share according to population in all branches of administration, including admission to professional and technical institutions, (ii) to constitute a board consisting of five members (four rural and one urban) for recruitment to subordinate services on the above basis.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Monday, 4th April 1949.*



# East Punjab Legislative Assembly.

3rd Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly.

MONDAY, 4TH APRIL 1949.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### TRANSFER OF CANAL DIVISION OFFICERS FROM ROHTAK TO HISSAR.

\*1040 Chaudhri Samar Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Canal Division Officers, Rohtak, are being transferred to Hissar; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh : Yes, due to administrative reasons.

### AREA OF LAND COMMANDED BY OUTLET No. 42600-L BUTANA BRANCH.

\*1041. Chaudhri Samar Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the reason or reasons, why the area uncommandable by outlet No. 2902/R Gangesar minor, Rohtak Division, and which can easily be commanded by outlet No. 42600-L Butana Branch has not been attached to that outlet in spite of the repeated applications and inspections by the authorities for the last four years ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** The area in question is not uncommanded from outlet at R. D. 2902-R Gangesar Distributary. However the proposal to transfer this area at the request of the zamindars from the Chak of outlet R. D. 2902-R Ganges Distributary to the Chak of outlet 42600-L Butana Branch has already been approved and the change will be carried out at the time of remodelling of the channel.

#### ACCOMMODATION IN JAILS OF PROVINCE.

**\*1043. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the population of Jails in East Punjab is nearly double the authorised accommodation available ; if so, what arrangements have been made by the Govt. to accommodate and keep in healthy conditions the surplus population ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

First part. Yes

Second part The surplus prisoners are being accommodated in Camp Jails at Hissar, Ferozepur and Yol and in tents pitched within the jail walls and in factory barracks in some jails. Adequate arrangements have been made to ensure sanitary conditions in and around these temporary structures.

#### COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE FROM REFUGEES FOR LANDS ALLOTTED TO THEM IN THIS PROVINCE.

**\*790. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total land rent levied on the refugees this year in each of the districts of the Province ;
- (b) whether the refugees who were owning lands in Pakistan and whose claims were found to be correct after verification are also being called upon to pay this land rent; if so, the reason thereof ;

- (c) whether there are any refugees who were owning more land in Pakistan according to the claims admitted by the East Punjab Government than the land they have been allotted in East Punjab ;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what is their number and in what way they will be compensated for the ownership in excess of the land allotted to them here ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

(a) Information is being collected.

(b) & (c) The allotment so far has been temporary for the purpose of rehabilitation only. The area allotted is not, therefore, necessarily equal or proportionate to the area abandoned. Rent is charged because ownership both in East and West Punjab vests in the evacuee owners and their interests have to be protected in accordance with Inter-Dominion agreements

(d) The question of compensation is still under consideration.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** In the case of those whose claims have been verified and found correct and who owned more land than that given to them, why is the Government charging any rent ?

**Minister :** The Government is charging rent on the land left by Muslim evacuees and so long as any person is occupying that land rent will be paid by him. It is not a question as to whether that person was owning more land in Pakistan. Rent is charged because he is occupying evacuee land here.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will he get any compensation for the land that he has left in Pakistan ?

**Minister :** Certainly, when the Inter-Dominion agreement on this question is finalised and the money collected as rent on evacuees' land in Pakistan is received by us.

**HOUSES BUILT FOR REFUGEES.**

**\*1033. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of houses built by the Government in Refugee Colony, Khanna ;
- (b) the number of houses auctioned to the refugees so far ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a large number of houses have not attracted refugee buyers so far ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) 202 houses.
- (b) 28 houses have so far been purchased by the refugees and 88 houses have been reserved for displaced military personnel.
- (c) Yes, this is so.

**LOANS AND GRANTS TO REFUGEES IN KANGRA DISTRICT.**

**\*1053. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of refugees settled in the Kangra District ;
- (b) the total amount of loans and grants made to them ;
- (c) whether it is fact that some more applications for loans and grants are pending with the Government.
- (d) whether the Government propose to make advance of loans and grants to these applicants ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :**

- (a) 8880.
- (b) Rs. 68,000 as loans and Rs. 7,650 as grants.
- (c) Yes.

(d) Their cases are under consideration and necessary orders will be passed when enquiries are complete.



**TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INSPECTOR  
AND HIS CLERK.**

**\*896. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the services of Motor Vehicle's Inspector and his clerk have been terminated, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether any enquiry was made against them; if so, the result thereof ;
- (c) the technical qualifications of the two Gas-Plant Inspectors appointed recently ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

(a) Yes, the services of a Motor Vehicles Inspector and his clerk were terminated on charges of corruption against them.

(b) Yes, an enquiry was made as a result of which both of them were discharged from service.

(c) (1) One Gas Plant Inspector has already worked as Motor Mobile Patrol Sub-Inspector, Rohtak, as Motor Vehicles Inspector Ambala and is thoroughly familiar with the Motor Law, Motor Machinery and Gas Plant. He was tested in his knowledge the working, etc., of Gas Plants before he was selected as a Gas Plant Inspector.

2. The other Gas Plant inspector is an ex-serviceman of the I. E. M. E. Unit Supervisor Grade and has a thorough knowledge of Motor Vehicles Machinery including Gas Plant. He has previously worked as a Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Inspector in the United Punjab and in East Punjab, a job higher in status and responsibility than the present one. He has been supervising Civilian Workshop which was set up at Amritsar for the maintenance and repairs of vehicles engaged under the Military Evacuation Organisation after partition.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Who tested the Gas Plant Inspector ?

**Minister for Public Works :** There is no regular machinery set up for the purpose.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In the reply the Parliamentary Secretary has stated that the Gas Plant Inspector was tested re- the working of Gas Plant. I want to know who tested him and on whose authority was he found to be suitable for the job?

**Minister :** He was tested by the higher officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Who was that officer?

**Minister :** I require notice.

### CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN ROADS IN DISTRICT AMBALA & KARNAL

\* 1042. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) the dates on which Shahbad-Barara road, Barara Sadhaura road and Ambala-Naraingarh-Kala Amb road were taken over by the Government from the District Boards of Ambala & Karnal ;
- (b) the dates on which orders were passed for the construction of Shahbad-Barara road and the un-metalled portion of the Ambala-Naraingarh-Kala Amb road and the progress made so far in the construction work, together with the time by which they are expected to be completed ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the condition of the Barara-Sadhaura metalled road is dangerously bad for the last so many years ;
- (d) whether Government have passed any orders for its repairs ; if so, the date of these orders and the work done so far by the Public Works Department for the implementation of those orders ;
- (e) the date on which the construction work was started on the Kurali-Siswan road, the construction work so far done and the time by which this road is expected to be completed ;
- (f) the time by which the construction work on the Ambala-Nangal road will be undertaken and completed by the P. W. D. ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

(a) The dates of taking over the roads are given below against each road :-

- |                                            |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Shahbad-Barara Road</i>              | Portion of the road lying in the Ambala district was taken over on 22-11-41 & that in Karnal district on 5-12-41     |
| 2. <i>Barara-Sadhaura Road</i>             | Taken over from the District Board Ambala on 16-3-46.                                                                |
| 3. <i>Ambala Naraingarh Kala Amb Road.</i> | Portion Ambala to Shahzadpur taken over from District Board, Ambala on 20-9-37 and the portion beyond it on 10-3-47. |

(c) The work on the Shahbad-Barara road was commenced on 8-11-46, but had to be stopped due to disturbances in 1946. It was resumed in November 1948 and is being pushed on as fast as possible with the limited supply of materials that are available. As regards work on the Shahzadpur-Naraingarh portion of the Ambala Naraingarh Kala Amb road, it was commenced on the 25th February 1948. Earth work has since been completed. Wearing coat is partly collected and boulders for soling coat have been arranged. Every effort is being made to complete it as soon as possible.

(c) The road is bad but has never been dangerous.

(d) The road was taken over from the District Board on 16th March 1941 in a very neglected condition. The distance between Barara and Kala Amb is about 25 miles of which 19 miles have been completed and the remaining 6 miles are in hand and are expected to be complete by the end of June 1949.

(e) No construction work is proposed to be done on this road for the present.

(f) No work is proposed to be done on this road.

**ROADS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.**

**\*1048. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no metalled or tarred road in the Hamirpur and Kulu Tehsils of the Kangra District ;
- (b) whether the Government propose to metal any road in the areas referred to above ;
- (c) whether any P. W. D. road has been tarred in the preceding year ; if so, what is the progress made so far and how much time will it take to complete the work ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

- (a) The length of metalled and tarred roads in Hamirpur and Kulu Tehsils of Kangra District is 1.5 miles near Kulu.
- (b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.
- (c) No. Does not arise.

#### **BUILDING OF A BRIDGE OVER BEAS.**

**\*1049. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the work of constructing a bridge on River Beas near Dehra in accordance with the provision made in the last year's Budget of the province has been started ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :** The work of constructing a bridge over river Beas near Dera Gopipur has not been started. The matter of construction of this bridge is still under the consideration of the Government.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE ROADS.**

**\*1050. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any village road has been constructed by the Government in pursuance of the provision made in the last year's Budget ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :** Work on the village roads postponed in 1948-49 could not be started because there was a very limited number of railway wagons and limited quantity of coal and other material with the Government and more important roads had first to be commenced and also the road programme had to be reconsidered by the Government in view of the rising inflation in the country.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the work of metalling the village roads done by the District Boards only or Government also undertakes this work ?

**Minister for Public Works :** Generally the work is done by the District Boards.

#### WELFARE OF SWEEPERS EMPLOYED BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES.

**\*1036. Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state : —

- (a) whether it is a fact that in November, 1948, a deputation of the Provincial Depressed Classes League headed by Master Feroze Chand waited upon him in connection with the removal of grievances of the Municipal employees in the Province ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that certain assurances were given by him to the deputation ;
- (c) if the reply to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what action has been taken to fulfil the assurances in respect of welfare of sweepers ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.

(c) Government have issued a direction to all local bodies in the Province to see that their whole-time sweepers get as their monthly emoluments at least Rs. 40 inclusive of allowances. As regards part-time sweepers, their emoluments should be fixed according to local conditions and circumstances.

**STRIKE BY THE SWEEPERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, SIMLA.**

**\*1037. Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the causes for the recent strike by the sweepers of the Municipal Committee, Simla ;
- (b) whether the strike was declared illegal or not ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the sweepers were forcibly ejected from their quarters during the pendency of the strike and some of the sweepers who were confined to bed were thrown outside on the roadside ;
- (d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ;
- (e) whether the demands of the sweepers who went on strike have been met by the Municipal authorities of Simla ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :** (a) The strike arose mainly out of the sweepers' unreasonable demand for a pay of Rs. 100 per month as against the present pay of Rs 50 to Rs. 52 per month.

(b) The strike was illegal as the sweepers had given only six days' notice.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No. The Committee is, however, examining the question of opening cheap grain shops for the sweepers. Government have instructed the Labour Officer to enquire into the grievances of the sweepers and on receipt of his report necessary action in connection with the sweepers' demand will be taken.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Sir. The replies to all the questions are given in English and consequently those members who do not know English but give notices of questions cannot understand the answers that are given to their questions and they also cannot put supplementary questions. Would it not be better if the Ministers were to translate the answers for the benefit of non-English knowing members ?



**Mr. Speaker :** I am thinking of amending the Rules in this respect and that would be done by the next session of the Assembly. Unless the relevant rule is amended it would be difficult for any one to translate it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Would it be something against the Rules if the hon. Ministers were to reply in Hindustani in case where an hon. Member putting the question does not know English ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I will have no objection if they choose to do this.

#### LEVYING OF TAX BY ZAMINDARS UPON HARIJANS OF AMBALA DIVISION.

**\*1038. Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Ambala Division zamindars are levying their own taxes upon the Harijans which are known as " Kuri Kumani " ;
- (b) whether it is fact that a large number of applications have been sent to the Government against this tax ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be the affirmative what action, if any, have the Government taken or propose to take in this behalf ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) :** (a) Yes ; on all non proprietors including the Harijans.

(b) No.

(c) The matter has been referred to the East Punjab Land Reforms Committee.

#### VACATION OF BUILDING USED AS OFFICE OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, HISSAR.

**\* 890. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma]

- (a) the circumstances in which the building in Hissar in which the office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, was located since 1939-40 had to be vacated ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the furniture and record of the office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Hissar, was thrown out by the owner in rains in August 1948 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Hissar, remained without an office for a few months.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) : (a) The Assistant Registrar was ejected from the building in execution proceedings of a Civil Court decree by the Court bailiff in August 1948.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Assistant Registrar moved the District authorities for requisitioning a suitable accommodation and it did take time to find it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it in the knowledge of the Government that the building which was occupied by the office of the Co-operative Societies, was a private building ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Was there any mistake on the part of the Registrar for which the Government had to leave the building and the Government work consequently suffered ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The Government had to undergo some difficulty in acquiring another house for the office of the Co-operative Societies. The previous house had to be left in execution of a Civil Court decree.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it known to the Government that after the Co-operative Societies Office was removed from the House it was given out at a higher rate ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have no information.

**CHIEF CONSERVATORS AND CONSERVATORS IN THE PROVINCE.**

**\*894. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total forest area in the East Punjab together with the unproductive portion thereof ;
- (b) the number of Chief Conservators and Conservators in the united Punjab together with the number of the same in the East Punjab at present ;
- (c) whether any development scheme is under preparation regarding new plantation; if so, where and the number thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :** -

- (a) First part. 4836 sq. miles.  
Second part. 2500 sq. miles.
- (b) First part. Two Chief Conservators and five Conservators including Conservator of Forests, Working Plans and Utilization Circle.  
Second part. There is one Chief Conservator and two Conservators now. The work of preparation of working Plans is handled by the territorial Conservators themselves.

(c) As usual coniferous plantations are in course of creation in the hill forests ; so far as plains are concerned, all the fuel plantations of the united Punjab such as Changa Manga and others having gone to the West Punjab on partition, a Special Officer was put to consider and report on the possibility of creating new fuel plantations in the East Punjab. After considering his report, it has been decided to plant up 15,000 acres in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ludhiana districts during the period of 5 years commencing from 1950-51.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Government feel that the number of officers in the Forest Department is much larger than is required for the small share of the forests that we have got after the partition of the country ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The working of the Forest Department has been examined by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and its findings are under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has it ever been considered that the surplus number of officers may be made use of in other Departments ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. Some of them are being sent to the Government of India and some to the Himachal Pradesh.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF IRON IMPLEMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES IN AMBALA DISTRICT.**

**\*1044. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the quantity in tons of iron and iron implements received by the Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, Ambala, for selling out to cultivators of the District through the Agricultural Assistants ;

(b) the names and addresses tehsil-wise of the persons who were supplied on payment these Agricultural implements and other iron articles by the Agricultural Assistants in Ambala District ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

(a) (i) 1,000 Chaff Cutters.

(ii) 90 tons M.S. 3/4 Sq. inches for *Phallis*.

(iii) 20 tons Spade blades.

(b) The implements and iron were sold to thousands of persons. The time and labour involved in collecting the names and addresses of those persons would not be commensurate with the results achieved.

**SUGARCANE CULTIVATION IN THE PROVINCE.**

**\*1045. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :--

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the Saraswati Sugar Mills, Abdullapur, Ambala, published a small poster on 1-2-49 declaring some varieties of sugarcane unfit for further cultivation and advocating some other varieties declared unfit next year from the cane growers if they cultivated them ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to manage for the growers to have the supply of the better and advocated varieties of sugar cane for cultivation this year ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

(a) Yes.

(b) Varieties Co. 205, Co. 213, Co. 244 and Co. 331 of sugarcane have already been declared by the East Punjab Agriculture Department as unsuitable for this province. Variety Co. 285 has also been declared unsuitable for factory zones on account of its being inherently poor sucrose cane. A scheme for the supply of seed of better varieties to the cane growers is already in operation in this State. Twenty seed nurseries were established during the current financial year in the different villages of the Jagadhri Factory Zone with the new variety of Co. L. 9 in order to replace Co. 312 and over 4,000 maunds of seed of this new variety has been distributed by the Jagadhri factory to the cane growers in its zone for the planting season 1949-50.

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**FORMATION OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TEHSIL HAMIRPUR  
DISTRICT KANGRA.**

**\* 1051. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any Forest Cooperative Societies are being started in Hamirpur Tehsil of Kangra District ; if so, since when, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

The Hamirpur Tehsil has not yet been included under the jurisdiction of the Kangra Forest Societies Division, but the matter is under consideration. As soon as this is done, steps will be taken to start the formation of such societies in this Tehsil.

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**RAISIN PRODUCED IN THE FOREST OF KANGRA DISTRICT.**

**\*1052. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether there was a proposal to give one-fourth share to the right holders of forests in Kangra District for the Raisin produced from these forests; if so, whether it is likely to mature?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Dalip Singh Kang) :**

Yes, but the consideration of the proposal has been postponed for the present.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What are the reasons for postponing the proposal?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The proposal has been postponed because there are no factories in the province to use the raisin.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it in the knowledge of the Parliamentary Secretary that a number of firms sent in their applications; if so, how many?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice to collect this information.

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**TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF TIRKHA RAM ACCOUNTANT  
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, REWARI.**

**\* 897. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the case of one Tirkha Ram, Accountant, Municipal Committee, Rewari, whose services were dispensed with while he was on four months leave ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that his appeal to the Deputy Commissioner was accepted and he was reinstated vide order dated 29-7-43 ;



(c) whether it is also a fact that the Commissioner passed an order to the effect that "Tirkha Ram could neither be dismissed nor retired, the termination of his services should be treated as on his resignation";

(d) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

(a) It is not possible to give all the detail in a brief answer. If the hon. Member will give particulars of the details in which he is interested, the necessary information will be collected.

(b) Yes, he was reinstated and allowed to resign at his own request.

(c) The Commissioner's order was that the termination of the services of Shri Tirkha Ram should be treated as, on his resignation and that it was not a case of removal.

(d) No action in the matter is contemplated by Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did this Accountant make a representation of his case stating therein that an injustice had been done to him?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He wrote to say that he may be permitted to resign. His request was granted and he has since resigned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did he originally submit his resignation or was his removal later on considered as if he had resigned?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There were certain complaints against this man and it was decided that if he gives his resignation it should be accepted and instead of being dismissed he should be allowed to go away.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there anything on record to show that he resigned?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** His resignation is on the file.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have you got anything on the file at the moment?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has this printed representation on behalf of Mr. Tirkha Ram under the caption, 'Inefficiency coupled with abuse of powers' come to the notice of the Government?

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member must put that document on the Table of the House \* to which he is referring.

*(The document was put on the Table of the House)*

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this printed representation has come to the notice of the Government? If so, whether the Parliamentary Secretary is in a position to let me know its contents?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say anything off-hand, as I have not got that representation before me.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It can be placed on the table of the Assembly and the hon. Parliamentary Secretary can see it in a moment.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Members not to address each other directly. They should better address the Chair; otherwise there will be questions and counter questions followed by confusion.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The hon. Member can keep his face towards the Chair. *(Laughter)*

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not a matter of keeping face towards the Chair but addressing it. It makes no difference if he keeps his face towards the hon. Minister.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government can deny the fact that the Municipal Committee, Rewari, dismissed Mr. Tirkha Ram and on appeal he was re-instated by the Deputy Commissioner but the Commissioner passed order that the termination of his services be treated as on resignation?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied to this question.

**DISTRIBUTION OF IRON AND STEEL.**

\* 1017. **Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of iron and steel available for public consumption for non-government purposes ;
- (b) the amount of iron and steel allotted to the different categories of consumers, priority-wise ;
- (c) the method in which it is distributed to the actual consumers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** (a) The quantity of steel available for distribution is about 1,200 tons per quarter of good steel and 1,500 tons of defective steel.

- (b) (i) 60 per cent for manufacture of agricultural implements.
- (ii) 25 per cent to new entrants such as displaced persons.
- (iii) 15 per cent to industrial fabricators who were drawing quota in united Punjab and for building purposes.

(c) (i) Quota for agricultural implements is distributed to persons whose names are recommended by the Director of Agriculture assisted by a specially appointed Committee. Permits prepared by the Licensing Officer are given to the Agriculture Department for handing over to firms in whose favour they have been issued.

(ii) Quota for industrial fabricators is issued only to those firms who were known to be quota holders in united Punjab.

Permits in case of (ii) and (iii) above are generally distributed through the field staff of the Industries Department or through the agency of the Post Office.

**ISSUES OF PERMITS FOR IRON AND STEEL.**

\*1027. **Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :

[ Dr. Lehna Singh ]

(a) the names of the persons and firms who have been given permits for iron and steel during the period from 1st January 1948 to 28th February 1949 ;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many of the persons and firms referred to above are selling this iron and steel in black market ;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any action against them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** (a) It is regretted that the value of the information required by the hon. Member is not commensurate with the labour and time required for collecting it.

(b) Such instances have come to the notice of Government and the Inspector-General of Police has been asked to initiate steps for stopping this practice.

(c) The firms in question have been asked to show cause why action should not be taken against them.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING SALARIES OF SWEEPERS.**

\* 1035. **Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued some fresh instructions about the salaries of the sweepers employed in the local bodies ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :** Yes. Government have issued instructions to all local bodies in the Province to see that their whole-time sweepers get as their monthly emoluments at least Rs. 40 inclusive of allowances.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know whether it is a fact that after the issue of these instructions, a good many Municipal Committees have not acted upon them and have therefore failed to increase the salaries of the sweepers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the hon. Lady Member brings some specific instance to the notice of the Government, enquiries will be made.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that the Jullundur Municipality has effected no increase in the salaries of the sweepers so far despite the fact that a deputation of sweepers of that place has waited upon the Municipal Authorities concerned?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for the collection of this information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the number of Municipal Committees which have carried out the instructions and those which have failed to act upon them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A report to this effect is being prepared. It will be put before the House when completed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether before the completion of that report the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is in a position to give an approximate idea of the number of Municipal Committees which have observed these instructions and which are still considering them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government has so far received no complaints about the non-observance of these instructions by the Municipal Committees.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please state as to which of the local bodies have acted upon the instructions in letter and spirit?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied to this question and I have nothing to add to what I have already stated.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please state whether it is a fact that after the issue of these instructions the sweepers of Simla went on strike and consequently many of them were arrested and accorded a bad treatment?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for this.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that after the Sweepers of Simla had struck work, the Government held out assurances to them that their demands will be met?

[ Dr. Lehna Singh ]

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(c) whether Government proposes to take any action against them ?

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**Parliamentary Secretary** : If the hon. Lady Member brings some specific instance to the notice of the Government, enquiries will be made.



**PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL TAX BY HARIJANS IN  
AMBALA DIVISION.**

**\* 1039. Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Harijans in Ambala Division are being made to pay the professional tax levied by the District Boards ;
- (b) what action does Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

- (a) The hon. Member is under a wrong impression ; there is no discrimination on the basis of caste or creed in the matter of levy of professional tax. Such tax is levied on professions irrespective of caste or creed.
- (b) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government aware of the fact that 80 % of the professional tax is being paid by Harijans ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of the exact proportion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have any complaints been received from the Harijans since they are being taxed very heavily by the district boards ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a matter of opinion.

**PETITION FROM CHAUDHRI HABIBULLAH KHAN A CONGRESS  
MUSLIM OF ROHTAK FOR RELIEF.**

**\* 555. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a petition from Chaudhri Habibullah Khan, a Congress Muslim of District Rohtak, was received by the Government to the effect that owing to the disturbances of last year he was a refugee in his own district and was unable to get any relief so far ; if so, what action, if any, Government has taken or propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for the collection of this information.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Sir, my question has remained unanswered.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that I require notice if the hon. Lady Member wants information on that point.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether a deputation of sweepers of Simla again submitted a representation to Government that despite the promises made by the latter, no action has so far been taken to implement them ?

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** I can say this much in this connection that Government have appointed a Labour Officer to look into the conditions leading to the strike of the sweepers and report about the reasonableness of the demands put forward by them. So action will be taken as soon as that report is received.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know when did this strike take place ?

**Minister :** It was in December last that the Sweepers of Simla resorted to this illegal strike. The question of considering their demands does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** When was that Labour Officer appointed ?

**Minister :** About two weeks ago.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Minister has characterised that strike as illegal. May I know why 87 sweepers arrested so far in that connection have not been released so far ?

**Mr. Speaker :** All these supplementary questions did not arise out of the main question, All the same, I have allowed them.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) 202.

(b) 96.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that out of 202 cases only 96 have been decided, what about the rest ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are pending ?

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** May I know why are they pending for such a long time ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are not pending for a long time. If I were to give full details, the hon. Member will see that most of the cases are decided very soon.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary say when was the oldest case instituted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary ;** I require notice.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the Government aware that in many cases enquiries were instituted, but the cases were withdrawn under pressure ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that a case of corruption was handed over to the police against the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise because the main question relates to the number of corruption cases. Moreover, this question has already been asked in this very session and a reply has been given.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Every time the Government evades the reply.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should know that a question once asked cannot be repeated in that very session.

**STRICTURES AGAINST DISTRICT OFFICERS OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.**

\* 677. **Pandit Mohan Lal**: Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the attention of the Government was drawn to the judgement of the High Court in the case of Ch. Balbir Singh of Hoshiarpur in which the hon. Justice Achhru Ram passed strictures against the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and A.D.M. of Hoshiarpur District casting serious reflections on their conduct as public servants;

(b) whether Government has taken or intend to take any action against these officers?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh**:

(a) Yes.

(b) Government have applied to the High Court for filing an appeal to the Federal Court so the question of taking action against officers does not arise at this stage.

**Pandit Mohan Lal**: So long as the existing decision of the High Court is not superseded by another decision, is the Government not bound by the existing decision?

**Minister**: It is a hypothetical question.

**Pandit Mohan Lal**: Is it not incumbent upon the Government to take action on the existing decision?

**Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Sardar Kapur Singh in his evidence has stated, "I have passed orders for the detention of some members of the gang . . ."

**Mr. Speaker**: Has an appeal been filed in this case?

**Minister**: Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker**: Then the hon. Member is quoting something from the finding of the High Court in regard to which Government has filed an appeal and the matter is *sub-judice*

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The Deputy Commissioner has made certain allegations.....

**Mr. Speaker :** It forms part of the case which is *sub-judice*.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Government not bound by the finding of the High Court till such time as the appeal is not finally decided by the Federal Court ?

**Minister :** The finding of the High Court has already been acted upon since Chaudhri Balbir Singh has been released. So far as the strictures against certain officers are concerned, this is a matter upon which no action can be taken unless it is finally adjudicated. This is in accordance with the accepted principle that action is taken only after the judgment has been pronounced by a court of law.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has an appeal been made against the strictures of the High Court, that is to know whether those strictures are right or wrong ?

**Minister :** I have not got before me a copy of the petition that has been put before the Federal Court. I cannot, therefore, say as to what are the remarks upon which that judgment is going to be attacked.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the appeal against the strictures a responsibility of the Government ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the case *sub-judice* or the strictures ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Everything that is on record is *sub-judice*.

#### HIGH SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS OF AMBALA DIVISION.

\* 708. **Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government High Schools that have been opened recently in the Province;

(b) how many of them are in the rural areas particularly of the Ambala Division ;

[ Chaudhri Lahri Singh. ]

- (c) the number of private High Schools that are being given Government grant-in-aid in the province ;
- (d) whether any of such private High Schools are situated in the rural areas of the province ;
- (e) whether any applications for grant-in-aid have been submitted to the Department by any high schools situated in rural areas in the recent past ; and if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) Two.

(b) None.

(c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the five-yearly statement of grants-in-aid sanctioned for privately-managed and local body A. E. Secondary Schools, a copy of which is available in the Assembly Library.

(d) Schools as are not on the regular grant-in-aid list are given special grants. Applications for such grant are made by the school authorities to the Inspecting Officers concerned as required under the rules in the Punjab Education Code. All schools which were recommended by the Inspecting Officers were awarded special grants.

**Pandit Shrf Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Government is also responsible for opening high schools in the rural areas or is it the entire responsibility of the district boards and the municipal committees ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Provincial Government is responsible in many cases. Some schools, however, are opened by the district boards and the municipal committees.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How far is the State Government responsible ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** According to the post-war plans, there are certain schemes under the consideration of the Government. As and when those schemes are decided upon, it will be known how many more high schools are going to be opened in the rural areas.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how many schools are likely to be opened in the rural areas ?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is difficult for me to say off-hand.

**Chaudhari Suraj Mal :** Ambala division is educationally backward than the Jullundur division, can the Government explain why more high schools have not been opened in Ambala Division.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There is no question of disregarding one district as against another or according stepmotherly treatment to a particular division. Schools are opened as the funds permit and according to the reports of the inspecting officers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it the policy of Government to open more schools in those ilaqs which are considered educationally backward ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** More schools will be opened in those ilaqs which have been considered educationally backward.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In spite of the fact that Ambala Division is very backward in education why new schools are not being opened in that Division ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There are certain other ilaqs which are more backward than the Ambala Division. The new schools are being opened according to a plan which depends on the availability of funds.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Is district Kangra included in the list of backward ilaqs which the Parliamentary Secretary has in mind ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation :** You are forward but your ilaqa is backward.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** After the achievement of freedom by the country, has the Government ever considered to devote some attention towards the education of girls and make it compulsory for them in primary classes ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Although the question does not arise, but I can assure my sister that the Government is more mindful of girls education than even of boys.

# **SPEECHES MADE BY MINISTERS DURING THEIR TOUR**

\* 900. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of speeches made in public meetings by each of the hon. Ministers during the last six months ;
- (b) whether the M. L. As. of the Constituencies concerned are consulted before the tour programmes of the hon. Ministers are framed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** (a) The statement below gives the required information :

Hon. Minister for Public Works	...	14
Hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation		28 (approximate).
Hon. Minister for Labour and Excise	...	38
Hon. Minister for Development	...	33

The information is not available in the case of hon. Premier, hon. Minister for Home and Revenue and hon. Minister of Finance as no record of speeches, made by them in public meetings has been kept.

(b) The M. L. As. are usually consulted before the tour programme of hon. Ministers is framed, except in regard to the tour programmes of hon. Minister for Home and Revenue and hon. Minister for Labour and Excise in which cases, however, copies of the tour programmes are sent to the M. L. As. concerned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do those Ministers who make a large number of speeches receive some sort of 'shabash' and it is considered that they are doing better work than those who make only a few speeches ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. Nobody can say whether the speeches made by the hon. Ministers are made in their official capacity or in their private capacity.

# **APPOINTMENT OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL HOSPITALS.**

\* 902. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of posts of clerks fallen vacant due to the Partition in the office of Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, East Punjab, Kasauli ;
- (b) the number of posts filled up by direct recruitment together with those filled up by promotion from amongst the senior clerks working in the Civil Surgeons' Offices in the East Punjab ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that only one clerk Pandit Hari Dass has been taken from amongst the senior clerks working in the Civil Surgeon's Offices, and he too has been shown as temporary hand ;
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above is in the affirmative what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the injustice done to the clerks working in the Civil Surgeons' Offices in the Province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : (a) Five.

(b) One post was filled by direct recruitment from the clerks working in the Civil Surgeons' Offices. The remaining four posts were filled by promotion from among the clerks employed in the office of the Director of Health Services (formerly the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals).

(c) Yes.

(d) ' Recruitment to the office of Director of Health Services is made by direct recruitment or by promotion from among the clerical staff of that office. The staff of the offices of Civil Surgeons' have to compete with outsiders when the posts are to be filled by direct recruitment. No injustice whatsoever has, therefore, been done to them, as they cannot claim promotion as a matter of right.

**REPRESENTATION FROM SIMLA PIECE GOODS MERCHANTS  
ASSOCIATION AGAINST A FIRM OF WHOLESALE  
DEALERS IN CLOTH.**

\* 903. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he received a representation from the President Simla Piece-goods Merchants Association in the month of October, 1948 in which allegations had been made against a firm of wholesale dealers in cloth ; if so, to what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : (a) Yes, an enquiry is being held into this representation and the result will be communicated to the hon. Member in due course.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : When was the enquiry started by the Deputy Comissioner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : About three months ago.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Does the Government know the nature of the allegations against which the enquiry is being held ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Government have received the representation and everything is mentioned in that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it not true that inspite of the fact that enquiry is being held against the firm the Government has again given recognition to that very firm of cloth dealers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Unless the result of the enquiry is known and guilt against a person or firm is proved no action can be taken by the Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it not a fact that the allegations are of a very serious nature but the Government has not taken steps to improve the matters for the interim period ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Before taking any action Government keeps the nature of complaints in view.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : May I know if the Government treats a serious or just an ordinary complaint in the same manner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Full attention is paid to all complaints that are received by the Government.

**SCARCITY OF RICE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

**\*929. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that since the control on paddy (dhan) no arrangements have been made by the Government for the supply of rice in Amritsar City up till 25-2-49 ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that since this control, rice is not available in the market even for the sick and other needy section of the population uptill 25-2-49 except through the black market ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative the reasons therefor ;
- (d) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** (a) No.

(b) Yes. The organisational arrangements, including printing of forms, etc., were in hand. There was, however, no difficulty for hospitals and other establishments.

(c) Besides what is stated in (b) above, complete arrangements now exist for the drawal of the rice by public.

(d) In view of the limited stocks of rice, its distribution has been limited to habitual and semi-habitual rice-eaters and patients, who were allowed to draw rice in lieu of wheat. The question of permitting others to draw rice is under the consideration of Government.

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**RESTRICTION ON THE HUSKING OF RICE.**

**\* 930. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that since the control of paddy (Dhan) husking of rice has been totally prohibited at the rice mills in the rural areas of the Province ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government have received several representations from the rural population stating their difficulties owing to the restrictions on the husking of rice,
- (c) whether it is also a fact that in these representations Government was requested to exempt a certain quantity of paddy from husking restrictions; if so, what decision has been arrived at by the Government in the matter;
- (d) what quantity of paddy, if any, was exempted from husking by the United Punjab Government from 1943 to 1945 while enforcing its control?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Some representations were received from the villages in Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts in this behalf.

(c) First part—No.

Second part — Government have allowed husking upto 3 maunds, to paddy for house-hold consumption to villagers in the Gurdaspur district on permits.

(d) Till 1944 there was no ban on husking.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The people of Gurdaspur District have been given a concession of husking paddy upto 3 maunds for house-hold use, may I know why a similar concession has not been given to other districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not necessary to give this concession to all districts. Where we find that rice is in abundance and people need it the concession is given.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it not a fact that rice is grown more in Amritsar district and Tahsil Zira of Ferozepore district but this concession is not given to these ilaqa?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If we receive any complaints from this ilaqa Government will give a sympathetic consideration to these.



**PURCHEE FEE CHARGED FROM PATIENTS IN DISPENSARIES.**

**\*931. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) since when the purchee fee had been charged from the in-door and out-door patients coming to the various hospitals and dispensaries for treatment in the United Punjab ;
- (b) what were the reasons for levying it ;
- (c) whether this system of purchee fee is still being continued ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the rate of purchee fee ;
- (e) the total amount collected as purchee fee in the Amritsar District during the period 1-4-48 to 31-1-49 ;
- (f) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the public feeling is very bad on account of this system ;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to continue with this system ; if so, the period thereof ;

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) The purchee fee in the Joint Punjab was levied since the 1st May, 1943.

(b) It is not possible to give exact reasons for levying the purchee fee. Presumably, the main consideration which led to the introduction of this fee was to inculcate among the patients the habit of preserving out-door tickets

(c) Yes, for the same reasons as led to the introduction of the system.

(d) The following fees are charged from the out-door patients and the patients admitted to the general wards in all Government hospitals and dispensaries :

(i) Out-door patients one pice per new patient.

(ii) In-door patients. one anna per patient inclusive of one pice paid as out-door patient. Indigent patients upto

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- 10 per cent of the total attendance are, however, exempted from the payment of purchase fee.

(e) It will take a long time to collect the information regarding the amount of purchase fee realised in Amritsar District from 1-4-48 to 31-1-1949.

(f) No.

(g) Yes, so long as Government sees no reasons for abolishing the system.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know how do the Government utilise the money collected from purchase fees ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government never squanders away any money. It always makes the best use of it by spending it for the benefit of the public.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state the reasons for continuing this system of collecting money ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government is not prepared to abolish it so long as it sees no wrong in this system.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Mine is a straight question, namely, what are the reasons in view of which Government consider it fit to continue this method of collection of money ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated in reply to the main question that the object of introducing this fee is to inculcate among the patient's the habit of preserving out door tickets, particularly in view of the great scarcity of paper in the Province.

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#### PAUCITY OF TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, HAMIRPUR.

**\*1054. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of students in the Government High School, Hamirpur, District Kangra ;
- (b) the total number of teachers working in this school at present ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of teachers is insufficient according to the rules ;

(d) whether it is a fact that representation for more teachers has been made to the Government from time to time ; if so, what action has been taken by the Government in this behalf ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) 9II.

(b) 19.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. A complaint from the hon. Member was received in January last which was forwarded to the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur, for a report.

Some additional staff has since been provided to the school and the question of giving more teachers is under active consideration.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** May I know when will this shortage in the teaching staff be made good by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Very shortly.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Is there any time limit by which this insufficiency in the staff will be removed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** With the commencement of the new session of the school, additional staff will be provided.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** What does he mean by the term 'new session' ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I mean after the annual examinations when the new classes are started.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that for want of sufficient teaching staff the education of the students has suffered a lot ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I add that sometimes education of scholars does suffer on account of this but in fact adequate staff could not be provided to many schools due to the disturbances.

**PRESENT BUILDING OF THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL  
HAMIRPUR, DISTRICT KANGRA.**

**\*1055. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the present building of the Government High School, Hamirpur, District Kangra is insufficient to accommodate the students in that school ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this matter has been brought to the notice of the officers concerned from time to time ;
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The matter is already receiving attention of Government.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** May I know whether there is any time limit by which some tangible action will be taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There is no question of time limit. The action will be taken very shortly.

**ADDITIONAL BUILDING FOR GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL  
KULU.**

**\*1056. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the present building of the Government High School, Kulu is not sufficient to accommodate all the students and classes of the school ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the demand for additional building has been made by the School authorities from time to time ;

- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The estimates for the work which were called for are still awaited.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT

**1057. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that many posts of Vernacular and English teachers in the various schools of District Kangra are still vacant ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the education of the students is suffering as a result thereof ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these posts were offered to the refugee teachers and they did not join ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to relax the condition of employing the refugee teachers only in the Kangra District ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) Yes. Some posts of English teachers have recently been filled and the candidates ordered to join the posts.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The condition of employing refugee teachers has already been relaxed not only in the Kangra District but throughout the East Punjab.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Government has admitted in their reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question that the education of students is suffering due to inadequate staff. May I know what steps have been taken by Government to remove this difficulty?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Previously Government had laid down that refugee teachers should be employed in the vacant posts, so that displaced teachers might get employment. Since they are not forthcoming now, the Government has relaxed that rule so that the education of the students may not suffer and also that local teachers may have an opportunity of getting service.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether after the relaxation of that rule by the Government, the shortage of teaching staff has been made good in the schools?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, to a considerable extent.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** May I know when were orders passed for the relaxation of this rule?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** About one and half month ago.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether after the issue of orders for the relaxation of this rule, a considerable number of non-refugee teachers have been employed, by the Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has any figures district-wise to substantiate his reply or is he saying this off hand?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give district-wise figures without notice being given. All I can say is that the principle laid down by the Government in this regard is being rigidly observed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to give figures about the number of non-refugee teachers employed in the Kangra District?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The figures are not available at present.



**INCREASE IN CROPS AS A RESULT OF WATER-LOGGING IN  
CERTAIN VILLAGES OF TEHSIL TARN TARAN**

**\*793. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total cultivable area of land of villages (1) Sheron (2) Chambhal (3) Jatta (4) Jawanda Kalan (5) Khabha Rajputan (6) Nandpur (7) Sarhali Mandan (8) Kandiala and (9) Patti ; in Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar;
- (b) the total area of each of the villages sown during the year 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Rohi passes through the lands of these villages and it has created water-logging over there ;
- (d) whether there has been any decrease in the production of crops during last three years as a result of the water-logging referred to above ;
- (e) if the answers to the parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what steps if any does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.
- (c) First part—Yes.  
Second part—No.
- (d) Decrease in cultivated area in 1947-48, partly due to the carelessness of the refugee allottees.
- (e) Does not arise.

## STATEMENT

Serial No.	Name of the village	(a) Cultivable area	Area sown during the year 1946-47.	Area sown during the year 1947-48.	Area sown during the year 1948-49.
1	Sheron	1843	2205	2050	Rabi girdawari 1949 has not so far been completed; thus the required figures for 1948-49 are not available.
2	Chambal	660	808	783	
3	Jatta	489	650	583	
4	Jawanda Kalan	716	914	815	
5	Khaba Rajputan	659	885	346	
6	Nandpur	1227	1763	1559	
7	Sarhali Mandan	1755	2015	1950	
8	Karyala	407	605	595	
9	Patti	4847	6149	4176	

**C. I. D. RECORDS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER WORKERS.**

**\*899. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the C. I. D. records of the Congress and other patriotic workers have been brought from the West Punjab ; if so, to what use this information is being put ;
- (b) whether the activities of Congress workers opposed to the ministerial party are being watched and reported upon ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Shri Gurmukh Singh, member P. C. C. in Ambala District is being shadowed by the C. I. D. ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) It is not in public interest to supply this information.

(b) No.

(c) No.

**DIET ALLOWANCE FOR POLITICAL DETENUS.**

**\*920. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that after January, 1942, the Political detenues who were confined in jails of the United Punjab were given daily diet allowance ;
- (b) the rates of this allowance sanctioned between the period from 1st February, 1942 to 31st December, 1945 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that all the Political detenues and security prisoners repatriated from Deoli Detention Camp between the period from January 1942 to 31st December 1942 were put in class I by the then Government ;
- (d) whether it is a fact all the Political detenues and the security prisoners were supplied free labour in their kitchens by the jail authorities during the period referred to in part (a) above ;

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(e) whether it is a fact that under the new rules political detenus have been put into two classes ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

(f) whether it is a fact that under the new rules the Political detenus are being charged annas four per day out of the diet allowance-given to them ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**—(a) Yes, Civil Disobedience Detenus and Security Prisoners in Class I.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) & (d) Yes.

(e) First part. Yes.

Second part. The old Class I has been split up into ' A ' and ' B ' classes to avoid hardship to those used to better way of living.

(f) No.

Statement showing the rates of diet allowance sanctioned for detenus during the period from the 1st February, 1942 to 31st December, 1945.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS CLASS I.

Period	Diet Allowance.
From February, 1942 onwards	-/9/3 per head per diem.
From 3rd December, 1942 onwards	-/12/- „ „ „ „
From February 1943 onwards	1/-/- „ „ „ „
From 1st August, 1943 onwards	1/4/- „ „ „ „

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE 1942 DETENUS.

From December, 1942 onwads	-/9/3 per head per diem
From March, 1943 onwards	-/12/- „ „ „ „
From 1st August, 1943 onwards	1/4/- „ „ „ „

**COMMUNIST DETENUS.**

**\*1059. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the number of Communist detenus who have been transferred to the jails of their home districts ?

**The Hon. Sardar Swarn Singh :** None.

**DIET AND CLOTHING FOR COMMUNIST DETENUS.**

**\*1060. Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state the diet and clothing facilities that are provided to the Communist detenus in Jails of the Province ?

**The hon. Sardar Swarn Singh.** A copy of the relevant rules is placed on the table.

**Copy of Rules 5 and 6 of the East Punjab Detenus Rules, 1949.**

5. Diet.—A and B class detenus shall be given a diet allowance of Rs. 2-4-0 and Rs. 1-12-0 per day, respectively. They will run their own kitchen with the assistance of some staff. They shall be supplied articles stocked in jails for prisoners, but payment for the articles supplied will be made out of the separate account to be opened for the detenus. In addition, they can get other articles through a contractor to be approved by the Superintendent Jail; the articles so supplied shall be examined by the latter. C class detenus shall be provided diet on the same scale as allowed to criminal prisoners of class C.

6. Clothing and Bedding.—Each detenu may wear his own clothes and his relations may, if so permitted by the Superintendent, send in extra clothes and bedding. A detenu who is unable to provide himself with clothing and bedding, shall be supplied by the Superintendent, on the scale

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given below on the condition that he will be permitted to use private bedding and clothes :—

	For A class detenus.	For B class detenus.	For C class detenus.
DURING ALL SEASONS.			
Kurtas	4	3	According to the scale allowed for Civil priso- ners.
Pajamas or dhotis	4	3	
Chadars or bed sheets	2	2	
Covering sheets	2	2	
Towels	2	1	
Cotton durrie (7' x 4')	1	1	
Munj mat	1	1	
Kachhas or Janghrias	2	2	
Bunians	2	2	
Pugrees or caps	2	2	
Pillows with two covers	1	1	
Country-made shoes	1 pair	1 pair	
Blankets	1	1	

#### DURING WINTER

(In addition to clothing and bedding provided during all seasons)

Quilt	1	1
Woolen coat or woolen jersey	1	1
Straw mat	1	1

**\*597. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether most of the lands for vegetable purposes within the municipal limits of Karnal and Panipat have been allotted to many such persons who held no such lands in the districts now comprised in West Punjab.



- (b) whether the persons who held such lands in the districts now comprised in West Punjab have all been allotted lands in the areas referred to above.
- (c) whether for the allotment of the rest of such lands, a ballot was held without taking into consideration the merits of the refugee claimants who held such lands in the districts now comprised in the West Punjab ;
- (d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, what action does the Government propose to take to check such irregular allotments ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :** (a) to (d) The information is being collected. When received, it will be placed at the table of the House.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### LAND ALLOCATION SCHEME.

**\*1132. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Land Allocation Scheme has been finalised, if so, the details thereof.

**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** The allocation scheme for area was considered by the Cabinet and later by the Joint Rehabilitation Board of Government of India and East Punjab and was approved by it. In the meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board, it was decided to constitute a Committee consisting of Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, East Punjab Government and Financial Commissioner, Revenue, East Punjab, and a representative of the PEPSU (if need be) to go through various complaints of evaluation of land. I have learnt that this Committee has proposed some changes which are of a consequential nature and these will upset to some extent the allocation scheme passed by the Joint Rehabilitation Board. In view of that, I cannot give the hon. Member the latest change but I can show him, if he wishes, the previously approved copy of the allocation scheme. He can get that information from me no sooner than the calculations according to this new evaluation and changes are made in the allocation of areas.

**Shri Virendra :** Is it a fact that allocation scheme prepared by the Government has not been accepted by the Joint Rehabilitation Board ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member is talking of the old scheme.

**Shri Virendra :** Did the Rehabilitation Board in their meeting not reject the allocation scheme ?

**Minister :** Unfortunately, the hon. Member does not listen to the replies and puts supplementary questions. This is entirely a new scheme.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM AND LIQUOR IN THE PROVINCE.

**266. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of opium and liquor shops in Urban and Rural areas of each district during the year 1946-47 ;
- (b) the excise duty recovered on account of opium and liquor during the year referred to above ;
- (c) quantity of opium and liquor consumed by urban and rural areas of each district ;
- (d) the amount actually spent by the Government for the purchase of each of the aforesaid commodities in urban and rural area of each district during the year ;
- (e) the sale price of each of the commodities in urban and rural areas of each district ;
- (f) the consumption of each of the aforesaid commodities in urban and rural areas of each district during the year ?

**The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad.**—(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f).....  
A statement is attached.†

- (e) (i) The retail sale price of opium was Rs. 3-7-0 per tola (maximum) throughout the province.
- (ii) No retail sale price of liquor was enforced, but the prevailing retail sale price of a bottle of country liquor ranged between Rs. 7/- and Rs. 9/- per reputed quart bottle.

†Kept in the Library.

**PAY AND T.A. OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DIVISIONAL  
ENGINEER AND EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS OF THE  
P.W.D. PROVINCIAL DIVISION.**

267. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) the monthly pay of the Chief Engineer, Divisional Engineer and each of the Executive Engineers of the Provincial Division, P. W. D. (B. & R.) during the year 1948—49 ;
- (b) the total amount drawn as Travelling Allowance by each of the aforesaid officers during the period 1. 4. 48. to 28. 2. 49 ?

**The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :** A statement giving the required information is laid on the table. ‡

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION.**

**INJURIES TO CONGRESS WORKERS AT A PUBLIC MEETING  
AT SADHORA.**

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Sir, I have given notice of an adjournment motion†. But before I formally move for leave being granted, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue has any statement to make in regard to the matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** Instead of giving a notice of an adjournment motion, it would have been better for the hon. Member to have put in a short notice question. In that case Government collected the required information and if the hon. Member was not satisfied with that information, he could have moved his adjournment motion.

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‡ Kept in the Library.

† To ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to take necessary measures to ensure peaceful conduct of the public meeting held under the auspices of District Congress Committee, Ambala at Sadhora, police station Sadhora, district Ambala on the 30th March, 1949, which resulted in serious injuries to more than half a dozen congress workers at the hands of the so-called Akalis.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** There was very little time for doing that. I placed the matter before the hon. Minister and I thought that he must have contacted his officers and by now he might be in a position to make a statement. If he has been able to get any information and if he can make a statement on the subject, it may not be necessary for me to move my motion.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** This morning the hon. Member brought this matter to my notice informally. I told him that I did not have any information and if the hon. Member would put in a short notice question I would try to get the necessary information and place it before the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the hon. Member still want to move his motion ?

**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** No, Sir.

#### IMPROVED SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS BILL.

**Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) :** I introduce the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill.

**Minister for Development :** I move—

That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 30th September, 1949.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 30th September, 1949.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) Hindustani) :** I want to move my amendment that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member's amendment is out of order. An amendment for reference of a Bill to a select committee can only be moved if the main motion is that the Bill be taken into consideration. The hon. Member, however, is welcome to oppose the motion that has been moved.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Sir, I rise to oppose the motion moved by hon. Minister for Development. The reasons for this are quite clear. My hon. Friends know it full well that through various statements in the press and also through speeches, the big leaders have been laying much stress on increasing the production of foodgrains with a view to overcome the food shortage which is causing head-ache to the country in general and our province in particular. In view of this fact, I think that the Bill moved by the hon. Minister for Development is a very important one. It is, therefore, unbecoming on the part of the Government to circulate it to elicit public opinion. There is no doubt about it that it is a very beneficial measure. In fact all the Zamindars are not unmindful of the fact that at present there is a great scarcity of foodgrains in the province and that a higher yield of better quality is the need of the hour.

The object of the Bill, now before the House, is that the zamindars instead of growing improved varieties of seeds supplied to them by the Agriculture Department, grow inferior varieties and this results in lower yield of inferior quality. This goes without saying that the zamindars who constitute 80 per cent of the population of the province know it full well that the whole of the Province would be benefited by this measure. Under the circumstances, the argument that the Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by 30th September, does not appear to be sound. If the motion moved by the hon. Development Minister is accepted by the House, I am sure this Bill will not come up for discussion even during the next session. Here I cannot do without saying that whenever any beneficial measure in the interests of the zamindars is brought before this House, our Government makes all-out efforts to follow the policy of delay and drift. However, I am thankful to the Agriculture Department for evolving a number of improved varieties of seeds for improving the quality and increasing the yield with a view to benefitting the zamindars. But unfortunately our Government is bent upon causing delay by circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. However, I wish to submit that before the partition no attention whatsoever was paid towards this side of the province in general and Hariana Prant in particular and everything was done in the interests of the zamindars belonging to the West Punjab. What I wish to point out is that our Government does not carry on its work with good intentions. In

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

fact they do not do any work whole-heartedly. As a zamindar I wish to point out that each and every zamindar of our province needs a good variety of seeds and so long as our Government does not encourage the zamindars to grow improved varieties of seeds and does not even go to the extent of bringing pressure upon them in this direction, I am sure, it will not be able to achieve the very object with which this Bill is going to be placed on the Statute Book. It will not be out of place to mention here that zamindars are ignorant and illiterate. They are often unmindful of their gain or loss. It will be justifiable if the Government takes recourse to such steps as to bring home to them as to what is in their interest and what is not.

Sir, the time for sowing 'Kharif' crop is drawing near. I would, therefore, urge that this Bill should be passed and put into effect immediately. There are many areas of land which by the use of improved seeds, can yield much more than what they are yielding to-day. In our ilaqa, even up to this time, mostly old 'desi' cotton is produced. It is high time to instruct the people to grow long staple cotton. The seed should be supplied by the Government. If this is done by the time of the sowing of the 'Kharif' crop, I am sure peasants would be greatly benefited. Our Province is at present deficit in cotton and has to import it from outside. By putting off this beneficial measure we would be doing harm to the interests of the cultivators. Sir, what I want to stress is that if the Government wants to do a certain thing, it should do it honestly, whole-heartedly and promptly. What is the use of putting off a matter, which is absolutely of a non-controversial nature and about the utility of which there cannot be two opinions? The object of the Bill is simple and clear viz., to force the farmers to use the improved varieties of seed and seedlings. Now I really can't imagine why anybody should think of opposing this beneficial measure. If the officers of the Agriculture Department go out and visit the fields in order to see whether improved varieties of seeds are being used or not, why should anybody have any objection to it? What then is the necessity of circulating this Bill to elicit public opinion, which in this case means the opinion of illiterate and ignorant peasants who do not even know what is good and what is bad for them? If this Bill were to relate to some taxation proposal or any other controversial matter, one could understand the necessity of its being circulated with a view to eliciting public opinion. But here we have a Bill providing for the use of pure and certified seeds of improved varieties. I don't see the



of that country, would by now be standing in the 'accused' dock in a law court. It is our greatest misfortune, Sir, that our Government which claims to be a well-wisher of the peasants should itself delay the passage of a measure which is in the best interests of the latter.

Sir, if this Bill is circulated to elicit public opinion up to 30th September, I am sure it would not come before the House before the next session, which according to the usual practice is held sometime in October. If this Bill is circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by the 30th September it will take a long time to pass this Bill. Even if the Bill is passed it will have to go to the Governor for his assent and then perhaps to the Governor-General.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not necessary that the Bill should go to Governor-General.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** In this way, Sir, much time will be lost as the Kharif crop is sown in the beginning of November and is harvested in the month of June or July. If this Bill is allowed to be circulated for eliciting public opinion by the 30th September, then it may be referred to the Select Committee.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not know whether the hon. Minister knows the implication of his motion. It would be necessary to send this Bill to a Select Committee and for that purpose at least two months would be required. The Bill, therefore, will be passed by about January next.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I was submitting that if the Bill<sup>1</sup> is referred to a select committee, it will not be passed before January next. In this way, improved varieties of crops will not be grown in this year by these dilatory tactics. I do not like that this Bill may also be put in the cold storage like that of Consolidation of Land Holdings Act. At the time of passing that Bill, the House congratulated the hon. Minister for Development on passing such a Bill but unfortunately it has not been carried into effect in spite of the promises of the hon. Minister to enforce it as early as possible. I have referred to that Act as the memory of Ministers is generally very short and they forget their promises very soon which they have to make under some pressure. They have to make thousands of promises and if they try to remember every promise it may result in their mental derangement. According to the promise of the hon. Minister for Development, we were under the impression that the Consolidation of Land Holdings Act will be immediately enforced in

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

the Province but I have been struck with wonder to find that no provision has been made in the Budget in this behalf. I apprehend that this Bill even if it is passed may meet the same fate. The Government has not allowed any subsidy in the distribution of seed to the zamindars. The Government has distributed the seed on the basis of "no loss, no profit". But we are not prepared to suffer the loss and to invest initial capital. Our Province is predominantly an agricultural province and 70 per cent of the population entirely depends upon agriculture. Fifteen per cent of the population indirectly depends upon agriculture. In the old regime of British Raj, the Britishers wanted to squeeze out money as much as possible from India and they paid scant regard to agricultural development. But is the same story to be repeated now? In the changed circumstances, I hope that the hon. Minister for Development will strive his utmost for the progress of agricultural development in the province. At present, there is no conflict between the capitalist and the zamindar or between the landlord and the tenant. But the Ministers are very clever and in order to keep in abeyance any legislation, try to create dissensions among different classes of people. There is no such dispute so far as this Bill is concerned. The Government may perhaps be labouring under the impression that if the demand of the cultivators in regard to the improved varieties of crops is accepted, then another demand may be made by them in respect of manure. I understand that the Agricultural Department has under consideration the question of making legislative provision in regard to the preservation of manure. I do not know whether such a Bill is likely to be introduced or not, but I can say that such a need is keenly felt by the zamindars in the absence of any adequate arrangements for the proper storage of manure in the villages. I would, therefore, urge the Government that after removing some of the defects in the Bill in the Select Committee, it may be passed and enforced in the Province as early as possible. It is now high time to adopt such measures which will bring about increased production of seed for the cultivators. But the difficulty is that the Ministers on the one hand try to win the sympathies and good will of the people by introducing such Bills in the House but on the other hand they adopt dilatory tactics. It seems that they have been stirred to action on account of the impending elections and it cannot be acclaimed as a genuine gesture of real sympathy.

**Mr. Speaker :** Do not impute any motives.

necessity of circulation in this case. It concerns only the farmers who are mostly ignorant, illiterate and unorganized. How can they be expected to read it, understand its provisions and record their views about it? I hope the hon. Minister would agree with what I have just said and accept my amendment. It should be referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee may be asked to submit its report in a day or two, so that it may be possible to pass this Bill in this very session. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I was under the impression that our Government had by now become fully conscious of the necessity of improving agriculture and would, therefore, give it more attention than before. Certain things happened in the last session to raise such hopes in our minds. The first thing which raised such hopes was the attitude of the hon. Minister in charge at the time, when the consolidation of Agricultural Land Holdings Bill was being discussed in the Select Committee. The speech made by the hon. Minister while sponsoring this Bill in the House, also made us hopeful that the Government would henceforth give more attention to agricultural development than before. The hon. Members of the House had even gone to the length of congratulating the hon. Minister on this speech.

But, Sir, what do we find today? A proof of the fact that notwithstanding all its loud professions, the Government is not prepared to take any practical steps for the improvement of agriculture. I was really surprised when the hon. Minister for Development moved a motion for the postponement up to the end of September of a measure the professed object of which is to bring about agricultural development and increased production in the province. The pity of it is that the measures which were really of a controversial nature and the consideration of which ought to have been postponed with a view to ascertain definitely the views of the people on them, were passed without feeling any necessity of circulating them. I don't see any reason why this Bill, which is so closely connected with the interests of the peasants—nay the interests of every person living in this province, of every person who has to-day to face the hardship and botheration implicit in rationing and food control schemes—should be put off and not passed immediately. The food situation in the country to-day is such as to elicit such a remark from the Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, as this :—

“ Food problem is a challenge to us and if we are unable to solve it, our very existence will be in jeopardy.”

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Sir, I think this House would agree with me, when I say that use of good seeds plays a very important part in the improvement of agriculture, though, of course, manure and method of irrigation have their own places. What can, however, prove most useful and beneficial in the present circumstances is the use of best varieties of seed. I was under the impression that keeping these considerations in view, the hon. Minister would urge for the immediate passage of this Bill or at least for referring it to a Select Committee and then passing it in this very session. I could never imagine that the hon. Minister would move for its circulation with a view to eliciting public opinion. I can't understand what our Government thinks about this matter. Does the Government think that the farmers perhaps might not like to use good seed? Is it doubted that the cultivators would be glad to improve yield from their lands? What else can then be the reason for putting off this measure by using dilatory tactics? Is it not a fact, Sir, that every Punjabi wants the Government to do its utmost for agricultural development, so that our province might become self sufficient in food in two or three years? If in the the British regime, not much attention was paid to the improvement of agriculture, it was because the Government was then 'Police Raj'. It is the foremost duty of every Government worth the name, to look to the primary wants of the people such as food and clothing. It is for this reason that rationing is introduced and cheap grain shops are opened. I feel, Sir, that the Government can obviate the necessity of doing all this by improving agriculture and thereby increasing production. What do we find to-day? The Government is compelled to import wheat and spend a sum of Rs. 28 lakhs and ninety-three thousand by way of subsidy on it, in order to provide food to the people of this province, which once used to be known as 'the granary of India'. I know that our Government will not hesitate to spend even Rs. 40 lakhs on this account, but must it use dilatory tactics to put off schemes aiming at the improvement of agriculture? Our Ministers are never tired of saying that the Government is in financial stringency but I can't understand why it does not take steps to obviate the necessity of this huge expenditure. Sometime back, our Government purchased wheat at the rate of Rs. 14 per maund for seed purposes, but supplied it to the cultivators at the rate of Rs. 23 per maund. Sir, if any such thing were to happen in some other country, suffering from as acute shortage of food as ours is, I am sure the Ministers constituting the Government

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, the Ministers want to give satisfaction to the people without giving them anything. In this connection, I am reminded of a story which I would like to narrate before the House. Once Shivaji was greatly pleased with a Brahman who was his great devotee. He bestowed upon him a conch with instructions that whenever the Brahman would blow the conch, he would get things which he desired. He brought that gift but after some days he lost it somewhere. The Brahman again went to Shivaji and said that the precious gift had been lost by him. Shivaji reprimanded the Brahman for his neglectful regard for the conch. He, however, again bestowed upon him another conch which according to him would give twice the number of articles which the Brahman would like to possess. That conch was called by the name of "Lapot Sankh". The Brahman was overjoyed to receive such a precious gift. He made experiment but unfortunately failed to get anything. His enjoyment of the possession of that gift was greatly reduced when after a test it was found lacking in intrinsic worth. Similarly, when we demand one thing, our hon. Minister tells us that he is prepared to grant us two things. When we demand two things, he promises to give us four.. After the termination of this long session of the Legislative Assembly, when we go to the plains and our electors enquire from us as to what we have done for them, we will have to tell them that we have brought a "Lapot Sankh" only. What has this Government done for the people?

**Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Member to be relevant.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was submitting, Sir, that the Government should not adopt the policy of holding out empty promises to the people. It is said that communalism is rampant in the Province and that communism has started raising its head. To remedy all these ills, the Government should provide work to everybody.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should speak about seeds.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was submitting that it is the duty of the Government to provide work to everybody. Unless this is done, a large number of persons will remain idle. An idle man's brain is devil's workshop. He sometimes feels inclined to do acts, which he would not have otherwise done. It is the responsibility of the Government to uproot unemployment.



**Mr. Speaker :** I would again request the hon. Member to be relevant.

**Minister for the Home and Revenue :** He has nothing better to think about.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was submitting, Sir, that the Government should have some definite programme before it. The poor peasants of our Province are in need of immediate assistance. The most urgent thing in this connection is the supply of good seeds. Most of the zamindars have to be content with such seeds as they are able to obtain from the village Bania. Some of them borrow seeds from others which consist of half wheat and half barley. How can we expect good crops under these conditions? If this Bill is passed, the Government will be in a position to compel zamindars to use better quality seeds. I hope that the hon. Minister will realise the urgency of adopting this measure.

Yesterday, I went to a place situated in Himachal Pradesh. There I enquired from a zamindar, whom I happened to meet, if he had benefited by the creation of the present Himachal Government. He replied that there was a change in the name only.

**Mr. Speaker :** He is again irrelevant. From East Punjab the hon. Member has shifted on to Himachal.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was submitting that the peasant told me that 'begar' which existed in small States. . . .

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** On a point of order. The hon. member is casting reflection on another administration.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should avoid it.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** He said that 'begar' had been abolished, but there was no other change.

**Mr. Speaker :** No more reference about that.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** If we go to any part of the East Punjab and enquire from the people if there has been any improvement in their lot, we would be told that there has been no change.



I read in the papers today that there has been a strike in my home town as a protest against the new Sales Tax Act. A zamindar cannot feel any improvement in his condition unless the produce of his fields is increased. Masses in general complain of the enactment of Public Safety Act. May I ask if any section of the public is satisfied? I wish to know from the Government as to what they have done for the people? Have they opened a large number of hospitals and schools for the good of the public? We entertained high hopes about the present Bill, but this has been the case of a mountain going into labour and producing only a mouse. I request the hon. Minister to enact and enforce this Bill as early as possible so that those people with the help of whose votes he is occupying the present position may be helped. If the motion for circulation is to be insisted upon, we should be plainly told that the Government is not yet prepared to place this Bill on the Statute Book. As a member of the party, I will obey that decision but will be able to explain the real position to the people.

During discussion of the Demand for Agriculture, the hon. Minister in charge quoted extracts from the speech of hon. Shri Jairamdas Daulat Ram, Food Minister of the Government of India. He was said to have stated that in America, the Government was spending eighty rupees per head on Agriculture, while in India not even one anna per capita was being spent. Let the Government take its own time in incurring expenditure on agriculture, but I wish to point out that the Bill under discussion would cost nothing. The hon. Minister should not insist on circulating it and I would request him to agree to refer it to a Select Committee. If the Select Committee is of the opinion that there are certain defects in the Bill and that it should be circulated, it will make that recommendation. The Select Committee will consist of members who would be proposed by the Government and you will be the chairman of that Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall not be a member of the Select Committee.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was addressing the hon. Minister through you. There is no harm if the Bill is referred to a Select Committee. When the public learns about the Government having taken this step, they will realise that our Ministers are conscious of their responsibilities towards them. I hope that the hon. Minister will give proof of his sense of responsibility.

**Sardar Ajit Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) (Punjabi) :** Sir, I have stood up to support the proposal put forth by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal. Like him I am also of the opinion that the sooner this Bill is passed into law the better it would be for our zamindar brethren. But I am extremely sorry to say that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has not used proper language in respect of the hon. Minister for Development. My hon. Friend very well knows that in his zeal for the well-being of the zamindars our hon. Minister is second to none. So far as I think he has moved this motion for circulation to gauge the feelings of other hon. Members in regard to this measure and now when he knows that the House is keen to pass this Bill he will not hesitate to send it to a Select Committee immediately. This is my reading of the situation and I think it is correct. With these words, I would request my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal to withdraw his amendment.

**Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (Punjabi) :** Sir, I am really pleased to hear the reaction of hon. Members to my motion for circulating the Bill to elicit public opinion thereon. As a matter of fact the reason for suggesting this step, as I have already informed the House during discussion on the Budget, was that this year we have only four thousand maunds of seed at our disposal. During the next year we will be able to distribute fifty thousand maunds. So if we pass the Bill now it may of course please hon. Members as also the people at large, but I am afraid we will not be in a position to implement its provisions. The hon. Members and hon. Ministers will be enabled to boast that they have passed a very useful measure but this will be a positive proof of all of us being "Lapaur Sankhs" because we will not be fulfilling our promises. However, in spite of this fact, because the House appears to be keen on passing this Bill as soon as possible and as I also feel that the Bill when passed into Law might egg us on to greater work in this direction, I have no objection in sending the Bill to a Select Committee. I am prepared to alter my previous motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** It would be better if the hon. Minister first withdraws his previous motion and then moves a second motion.

**Minister for Development :** Sir, in accordance with the desire of the House I beg to withdraw my motion for circulating the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill to elicit public opinion thereon.

*The motion was by leave withdrawn.*

**Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) :**  
I beg leave to move —

- (a) That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Sardar Bachan Singh  
Chaudhri Suraj Mal  
Thakur Dalip Singh  
Sardar Ujjal Singh  
Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa

with directions to submit its report as soon as possible ;

- (b) that the quorum of the select committee shall be three.

*The Assembly unanimously granted the necessary leave.*

**Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) :** I move —

- (a) that the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Sardar Bachan Singh  
Chaudhri Suraj Mal  
Thakur Dalip Singh  
Sardar Ujjal Singh  
Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa

with directions to submit its report as soon as possible ;

- (b) that the quorum of the select committee shall be three.

*The motion was carried.*

## FACTORIES (CONTROL OF DISMANTLING) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister for Finance (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) :**  
I introduce the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) (Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Finance :** I move —

That the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) [Amendment] Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi,\* General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): I move —

That the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1949.

Sir, as you know I opposed the circulation motion in connection with the previous Bill, that is, the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill and urged that it be passed as soon as possible. I did so because there was no controversy about it. But the same is not the case with the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) (Amendment) Bill which is sought to be taken into consideration at once and I, therefore, oppose the motion before the House. I propose that the Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion. In this connection I would just read out the statement of objects and reasons.

“ The East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) Act, 1948 does not contain a specific provision in regard to the seizure of machinery involved in the contravention of its provisions. It is, however, desired that the officers authorised in this behalf to enter buildings and to inspect machinery should have the power to seize the machinery suspected to have been the subject of a contravention of the Act. This Bill is intended to achieve this object. It also provides for immunity to Government for any act done under this Act.”

These words clearly show that the Government officers will get the powers not only to enter any building or business premises for inspection but they can also seize any machinery, or any part thereof. I may submit, Sir, that a number of the hon. Members opposed the Sales Tax Bill at the time of its introduction in the House on the plea that no person should be authorised to enter a business premises without the permission of the owner. I, therefore, again submit

that the Government should try to know the opinion of the people who will be affected by this Bill and whose honour and dishonour are involved. There is no doubt that this Bill will prove a useful measure to some extent. But we should also not ignore the conditions now prevailing in our province. In view of them, it is necessary that no undue interference should be practised by the Government in their affairs. The Government has not so far succeeded in calling back all the industrialists who have gone out of the province and this step will all the more discourage them.

I usually abstain from speaking on such a subject. But I may submit, Sir, that it is our duty to raise our voice for the protection of any group of people who are being deprived of their rights. We represent here not only the people belonging to a particular area but also the people of the province at large. I will, therefore, request the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill to circulate it among the people who will be affected by it, to know their difficulties. It is also possible that new aspects of the question may be brought to the notice of the Government. These suggestions can then be discussed by a select committee. It is only then that the Bill should be passed by the House. I would like to point out that at the time of the passing of the Bills the other day, the newspapers commented that we passed the Bills in haste and the people are not taken into confidence. Last time the House passed no less than eight Bills in less than an hour.

**Mr. Speaker :** No reflection upon the House, please.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** By giving this instance, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this hon. House to the fact that it is not desirable to act in haste in such matters. At that time, most of the newspapers commented that the hon. Members of the House were acting in haste and were not doing their duty. This Bill is of a controversial nature and it should, therefore, be circulated among the public to elicit opinion thereon. This opinion may then be discussed by a select committee. This Bill should only then be passed. There should be nothing which should not be lost sight of. There remain loopholes and lacunae in the Bills that are passed in haste. The result is that the Government has to bring forth amending Bills in the very next session. Even in this Session, a Bill seeking to amend the Excise Bill passed in the last session has been brought before the House. I therefore submit that we should act

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

after full consideration at the very outset and should not try to rush through the business. This Bill should, therefore, be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. It may then be referred to a select committee. With these words, I commend my motion to the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the East Punjab Factories (control of dismantling) (Amendment)

Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1949.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana** (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, at the time when the original Factories Bill was brought before the House during the last session, we made it clear that there was no need for enforcing it in the province. On the one hand, we want that the industrialists and businessmen who have gone out of the province, should come back, so that its economy may be set right. On the other hand, we are warning them not to come back by introducing such amending Bills, as a result of which even their machinery can be seized by the Government so much so that even the spare parts of machinery can be seized. Under these circumstances, it is my duty that I, being a representative of the business community, should support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal. According to it, the present amending Bill should be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon. At the time of the passing of the original Bill, we were assured that it would not be strictly enforced. But now this Amending Bill has been brought forth without any adequate reasons. The hon. Minister for Home and Revenue has not told us any difficulties which forced the Government to introduce this Amending Bill which seeks to give such wide powers to the executive as to seize even the machinery of the industrialists. Over and above all this, the hon. Minister has given no reason for taking this step. This Amending Bill, I think, is uncalled for. But if at all it is to be passed, it should first be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. There is a clause in the original Bill, according to which nobody can transfer his machinery from one district to another. There could be some reason for such a provision, so that the people should not take their machinery to some other province out of panic and fear which was then prevailing here. This clause sought to check the industrialists from going out of the province. Under the conditions then obtaining in



the province, there could be some justification for such a measure. But I want to know if the conditions in the province have now returned to normal or not. Is law and order being maintained? Will the industrialists now get protection here or not? On the one hand, the Government says that the conditions in the province are normal and on the other, such Amending Bills are being brought before the House. I and my other hon. Friends opposed the Government at the time when the original Bill was passed. But we were assured that the Bill would be only cautiously used. We, however, find that today a new Amending Bill has been brought before the House without any adequate reason. According to a clause of this Bill, the machinery or any spare parts thereof, belonging to an industrialists can be seized by the Government at any time. The powers that this

| 4 P.M. | Amending Bill gives are not only against the interests of the industrialists but also against those of the country and especially of relief and rehabilitation of the displaced persons. The displaced persons although they have suffered a lot and are in a sad predicament. They consider East Punjab their home and give it a preference over other provinces. If it is the intention of our Government to respond to this sentiment of love by bringing in such a legislation, I leave it to its good sense to judge the justice of its attitude towards relief and rehabilitation itself. Under this Bill :

“ Every officer seizing any machinery or part thereof or any spare part under Section 5 shall forthwith make a report of such seizure to a magistrate having jurisdiction to try any offence in respect thereof which is punishable under Section 3 sub section 2 ”.

So under this Act not only can the machinery be seized but also punishment can be given. I beg to submit that in the interests of the province as a whole and of relief and rehabilitation and of the Government itself, this policy should be abandoned and the Bill withdrawn. On the one hand we are told that conditions in the province have returned to normal while on the other hand such measures are adopted which instead of affording facilities to the industrialists are placing restrictions in their way. There is a saying in Punjabi :—

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨੱਥ ਘੜਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨੱਕ ਵਢਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨਥ ਬਣਾਣ ਨੂੰ

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨਕ ਵਢਾਣ ਨੂੰ।

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

It is stated that the displaced persons are unwilling to come to their province. If you wish them to come here you should provide all sorts of facilities. But on the contrary panic is created among the industrialists by compelling them to get the previous sanction of the Government for every little movement of machinery or spare parts. If there is any error, machinery can be seized and punishment given.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I support the amendment moved by Chaudhri Suraj Mal. As far as the original Bill is concerned, I think its main object was to make provisions for preventing machinery or spare parts from going out of East Punjab at a time when there were disorders and unrest after partition. Due to the conditions prevailing in the province at that time it was generally thought that industrialists and capitalists would dismantle machinery and take it to safer places outside the province. So a Bill was passed for the good of the province in general. But now the conditions have changed and things have settled down. So, to me it appears doubtful whether the amending Bill which is before the House will serve the purpose for which it is being moved. I can't understand why it should have been necessary to do so at this time when conditions have nearly come to normal. So far it has not been found necessary to give such powers to the Inspectors. Have the conditions now changed for the worse that such powers are now being given? In fact such measures tend to create doubts and panic. My submission is that it would have been better if the Government had refrained from bringing in such legislation. Even now it is not too late and I would rather advise the Government to circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. If it is the desire of the hon. Minister to achieve progress in the sphere of industries by bringing in such legislation, I may point out that he is sadly mistaken. This Bill will adversely affect the industrial progress of the province. Interference by Government in such matters results in loss of confidence of the business class. I would request the Government to withdraw this Bill. But if it does not deem it proper to do so, I would request it at least to accept the amendment moved by Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have been listening attentively to the criticism offered against this Bill by some of the hon. Members. I have given a sympathetic consideration to all the points raised by them. But I

am surprised to find that there is a disagreement in the House even on this Bill. As a matter of fact there appears to be no solid ground for such criticism. The reasons put forth against this Bill are flimsy. There is no reason why the industrialists of this province should entertain any doubts or fears. In view of the conditions prevailing in East Punjab with regard to trade and industry we cannot allow the removal of machinery and capital out of the Province. It is a matter of great surprise that those very people who wanted the development of trade and industry are now of the opinion that machinery and spare parts be allowed to be removed at the sweet will of the capitalists.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** This is not what I said.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, I wish to submit that this is what the hon. Member was driving at. I am really surprised to listen to his line of arguments. Why should we allow the industrialists to take out capital and machinery from the province of their birth? This is unpatriotic. Why should we not try to prevent this?

Further, I have been asked whether the conditions in the province have returned to normal or not. It will not be out of place to mention here that normal conditions of a province can be determined from various aspects, namely, financial stability, maintenance of law and order and finally the industrial development. So far as the question of the maintenance of law and order is concerned, I need not say anything about it as my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh can judge for himself and I do not think there was any necessity for him to put such a question whether normal conditions exist in the province or not. I think he knows it better than myself. As regards the industrialisation of our province, I wish to make this point clear that we are facing certain difficulties in the way of our industrial development and we require some time to overcome these. If during these uncertain conditions, some industrialists want to remove their machinery to some other places outside this province simply because they think that comparatively better conditions exist there to enable them to thrive in their business, Government will not allow it. It is the duty of the Government in the interest of the province, not to allow any machinery or capital to be taken away from here to other places, like Bombay and C. P.

**Shri Behari Lal Chanana :** Has the hon. Minister any such case in view ?

**Minister for Finance :** Many persons approach us to give them the necessary permission. My hon. Friend knows it full well that many persons have already shifted to other places outside our province. Some of them went to Delhi and some to C. P., and still some more went to Bombay and other places. But the conditions at that time were quite different from those which exist at present. At that time houses and shops were not available at all, and it was not possible to provide them with such facilities. There was no law and order prevailing in the province and they were forced by circumstances to settle somewhere outside the province. We have been receiving applications from industrialists to permit them to shift to other provinces. Here I cannot do without saying this that under certain circumstances when the Government is satisfied, permission can be given, but if at the same time restrictions are not imposed upon the removal of their machinery from this province to other provinces, I am sure this will result in a great loss, because if those persons who have already established their factories both in this province and outside it, find that favourable conditions do not permit them to continue their business in this province they will surely like to shift their factories to Delhi, C.P., Bombay and other places convenient to them. If such moves on the part of the industrialists are not checked, I am sure, it will result in a great loss to our province. If my hon. Friends want that our province should undergo loss.....

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** We do not want that. What we feel is that the Bill now before the House is quite unnecessary and it will do no good.

**Minister for Finance :** My hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh has in the course of his speech said that the original Act should be withdrawn.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** I never said so.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not interrupt. Let the hon. Minister proceed.

**Minister for Finance :** Further I wish to point out that we have already received instructions from the Central Government to this effect. I wish to focuss the attention of my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh on the point that it is not only in this province that the proposed measure is going to be placed on the Statute Book but we also find such a measure in Madras too in the form of an Act and it was only recently that a Bill of this nature was passed in the Madras Assembly. I do not think there should be any objection to the passage of the Bill now before the House. If it is intended to develop industries in this province and at the same time not to allow any machinery to be taken away from this province outside it, then my hon. Friends should not oppose the Bill now efore the House.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** You want to harass the people through this Bill.

**Minister for Finance :** If a person makes clandestine effort to take away machinery from this province to other places outside it, I think Government is within its rights to seize his machinery and afterwards give it to somebody else with a view to benefit the province. It will not be out of place to mention here that the economy of our province is already out of gear. The object of the Bill now before the House is not to allow any machinery to be taken away to other places outside the province. This Bill is being placed before the House with a view to give impetus to trade and commerce and this, in my opinion, is the need of the hour. I hope my reply would satisfy the hon. Members and there will thus be no scope for any further opposition so far as the passage of the Bill is concerned.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Your reply is most unsatisfactory and unconvincing.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the East Punjab Factories (Control of Dismantling) (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1949.

*Division was claimed.*



*After the Division bell had stopped ringing Mr. Speaker directed the hon. Members to go to the lobbies for voting but the Members remained in the chamber standing in batches.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. I have asked the hon. Members to go to their respective lobbies and register their votes. If the hon. Members do not want to vote they should resume their seats. If they want to hold consultations they should go to the lobbies. I do not want them to stand in the House in batches.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, in view of the situation that has been created.....

**Mr. Speaker :** Only points of order can be raised during Division. What does the hon. Ministers want to say ?

**Minister for Finance :** I want to withdraw my motion for consideration of the Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** That cannot be done at this stage.

I will ask the hon. Members not to compel one another to vote on one side or the other.

*Members went to lobbies and recorded their votes.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, Order. For the motion 30, against the motion 25.

*(Loud cheers and shouts of "resign, resign")*

### AYES.

1. Bachan Singh, Sardar.
2. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
3. Bhagat Ram, Chodha,
4. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
5. Dalip Singh, Thakur.
6. Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit.
7. Faqir Chand, Pandit.
8. Ganga Saran, Seth.
9. Gurbachan Singh, Sardar.
10. Gurbanta Singh, Master.
11. Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.
12. Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
13. Jiwan Lal, Pandit.
14. Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
15. Kedar Nath Saighal, Lala.
16. Lehri Singh, Chaudhri.
17. Man Singh Jathedar, Sardar.
18. Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
19. Mehar Chand, Chaudhri.



## AYES.

20. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati, Dr.
21. Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
22. Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
23. Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
24. Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar.
25. Sardul Singh, Sardar.
26. Shanno Devi Saigal, Shrimati.
27. Sita Devi, Shrimati.
28. Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.
29. Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
30. Ujjal Singh, Sardar.

## NOES.

1. Ajit Singh, Sardar.
2. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
3. Beli Ram, Thakur.
4. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
5. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
6. Ishar Singh Mujhail, Sardar.
7. Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
8. Kartar Singh, The Hon'ble Sardar.
9. Krishna Gopal Dutt, The Hon'ble Chaudhri.
10. Narotam Singh, Sardar.
11. Pancham Chand, Thakur.
12. Prem Singh, Mahant.
13. Prithvi Singh Azad, The Hon'ble Shri.
14. Ranjit Singh, The Hon'ble Captain.
15. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
16. Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
17. Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
18. Sarmukh Singh, Sardar.
19. Sher Singh, Chaudhri.
20. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
21. Swaran Singh, The Hon'ble Sardar.
22. Sudarshan, Seth.
23. Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
24. Udham Singh, Sardar.
25. Waryam Singh, Sardar.

**TRACTOR CULTIVATION (RECOVERY OF CHARGES) BILL.**

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) : I introduce the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Bill.

**Minister for Development** : I move—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion moved--

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : I move--

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Bill be referred to a select committee with direction to submit its report before 7th April, 1949.

Sir, I realise that the proposed Bill is for the benefit of the agriculturists but I suggest that the Bill be referred to a select committee. If it is not done it is likely that the Bill will be passed haphazardly without scrutiny of the clauses of the Bill. In fact, every Bill should be referred to a select committee so that the defects if any may be removed. I would, therefore, suggest that the Bill be referred to a select committee and passed after consideration of its report.

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation [Recovery of Charges] Bill be referred to a select committee with direction to submit its report before 7th April, 1949.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up to oppose the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal. There is nothing in the Bill by which it may be considered necessary that it be referred to a select committee. The Government of India has lent the tractors for mechanical cultivation of land. Tractors will be lent to the cultivators for any agricultural operation on their land and they will have to deposit full tractor cultivation charges according to the prescribed scale. In case of refugee cultivators however, it has been provided in the Bill that such cultivation charges may be recovered at the time of harvest. In

these circumstances I do not think there is any need for postponing the Bill by referring it to a select committee. If the Bill is postponed, the Government will recover the tractor cultivation charges from the refugee cultivators immediately and they will be debarred from availing themselves of the concession provided under this Bill. They will thus be put to trouble and may not be able to take advantage of the tractors.

**Chaudhri Lahri Singh** (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I fail to understand why my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has raised an objection to the passing of this Bill at this stage. The tractors are available for cultivation and they can be utilised for agricultural operation to the best advantage in this session. When the rainy season sets in, these tractors will not serve any useful purpose. It would have been better if this measure had been enforced in the Province by an Ordinance and if there is any more delay, it will deprive the cultivators of the benefits of mechanical cultivation of their lands by means of tractors. There is no such controversial clause in the Bill which may necessitate its reference to a Select Committee. I hope that my Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal will withdraw his amendment and afford an opportunity to the House to pass the Bill.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by my hon. Friends. I admit that the Bill should be passed but it would be better if it is referred to a select committee so that it might make some recommendations with regard to certain clauses of the Bill.

**Minister for Development** (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I do not consider it proper to accept the amendment moved by hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal that the Bill be referred to a select committee. If the refugee cultivators want to have agricultural operation performed by tractors on their lands, they would not have ready money to pay the charges in advance and it would be a hardship to ask them to do so. It has accordingly been decided that the charge of tractor cultivation, so far as the refugees are concerned, be recovered at the time of harvest. But it has necessitated the making of legislative provision under which if any cultivator fails to make payment, the sum due from him shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue. If this provision of recovery

[Minister for Development]

of outstanding dues is not made in the Bill, I am afraid that the charges may not be recovered at all or we will have to change the provisions of the Bill. Under these circumstances, I think we should decide that the Bill need not be referred to a select committee and I hope that my friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal will withdraw his amendment.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Some hon. Members have said that I am adopting dilatory tactics by making motion for reference of this Bill to a select committee. I am anxious that this Bill should be placed on the Statute Book, as early as possible.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot make any speech.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister in charge that it is proposed to help the refugees by passing this Bill, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

*The Amendment was by leave withdrawn.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation [Recovery of Charges] Bill be taken into consideration at once. All Members will vote.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**CLAUSE 1**

**Sub-clause (2)**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**CLAUSES 2 to 9**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**CLAUSE 1**

**Sub-clause (1)**

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

TITLE

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Development:** I move—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Bill

*The motion was carried.*

**PUNJAB EXCISE (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL**

**Minister for Labour and Excise (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad):** I introduce the Punjab Excise (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Labour and Excise (Hindustani):** I move—

That the Punjab Excise (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker,** the object of the Bill is to make the policy of gradual prohibition in the province a success. It will be noticed that unless the amendments proposed by the present Bill are incorporated in the Punjab Excise Act which is in force, the scheme undertaken by the Government cannot succeed. One of the things which this Bill provides is the imposition of certain restrictions on those who drink foreign wines. The British rulers had granted certain privileges. As these facilities have been responsible for loss to the provincial ex-chequer, it is proposed to curtail these by enacting the proposed Bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Where is that provision in the Bill?

**Minister for Labour and Excise:** I am referring to clause 2. One who drinks foreign wines can keep it up to a certain amount at his house without any restriction. It is proposed to restrict this facility. This step will yield additional revenue to the province. Under clause 2 of the proposed Bill, a person desiring to keep more than the prescribed number of bottles will have to obtain permission from the Government. So far, a person keeping a certain number of bottles of foreign liquor at



[Minister for Labour and Excise]

his house had not to pay anything to the Government, while a shop-keeper, who had to stock more than one bottle had to obtain a regular licence. Under clause 2 of the proposed Bill, a person desiring to keep from one to three bottles will have to pay five rupees as licence fee to the Government. Similarly, a person desiring to keep more than three but not more than six bottles will have to pay ten rupees and he who wishes to keep from seven to twelve bottles will be required to pay twenty rupees as licence fee. In addition to yielding more revenue, it will restrict the consumption of foreign liquor to more extent.

By, clause 4, it is proposed to check the growth of the evil habit of drinking among young men. At present, a young man of eighteen or twenty can obtain wine for drinking at a restaurant or a liquor shop. It is proposed to raise the age-limit of those persons to whom a restaurant-keeper or a liquor-vendor can supply wines or intoxicating drugs from eighteen to twenty five years.

Sir, clause 5 is very important. In other provinces of India for example, Bihar and Orissa, the age limit for men working in places where liquor is consumed is eighteen years whereas in Bengal it is fourteen years. Here in the East Punjab we are raising this limit from eighteen to twenty-five years and are banning the employment of women altogether in such places. The keepers of hotels and restaurants do not give only bad habits of drinking to the people but also spoil their morals in other ways. We know that some foreign Governments encourage these vices in order to get more revenue but this Government does not approve of these foul methods. This Government will in no case in order to make money emulate the bad example of France where drinking and the so called 'red light houses' are freely provided for pleasure-loving persons. No religion permits such practices and our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi condemned them in the strongest possible terms. I am sure that a Government which depends on excise revenue which to me is nothing but 'Haram ki Kamai' can never achieve any measure of success. If money can be had by corrupting the morals of the people we will do without that money and would prefer to be poor. We are certainly not out to increase our revenues at all costs. We care more for morals than for money and this is why we do not want to permit boys of tender age to work in the liquor shops.



Sir, coming to clause 7, I wish to say that we can stop our young men and particularly students from the evil of drinking if highly placed Government officers and hon. Members of this House fully co-operate with the Government. I may be excused if I say that a very large number of our officers and other responsible public men are given to drinking and this forms a very bad precedent for our youth. We are only in a position to advise them when we ourselves follow the lofty principles of Mahatma Gandhi and keep clear of this vicious habit of drinking. As a matter of fact we should take a pledge that we will not rest till we have freed our province from this curse.

**Mr. Speaker :** Why not stop the manufacture of liquors altogether ?

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, we mean to do that gradually with the help and co-operation of this House. Our great difficulty in this matter is that a large number of our officers cannot be dissuaded from drinking. The other day I came across an officer friend who said that there was absolutely no wisdom in banning or prohibiting the use of wine. He quoted a few lines from 'Umar Khayyam which run as follows :—

ਅਜ਼ ਬਾਦਾਏ ਨਾਬ ਲਾਲ ਸੁਦ ਗੌਹਰੇ ਮਾ  
ਆਮਦ ਬਫ਼ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ਿ ਦਸਤ ਸਾਗਰੇ ਮਾ ।  
ਅਜ਼ ਬਸਕੇ ਹਮੀ ਖੁਰੇਸ ਮੈ ਬਰਸਰੇ ਮੈ  
ਮਾ ਦਰ ਸਰੇ ਮੈ ਸੁਦੇਸੇ ਮੈ ਦਰ ਸਰੇ ਮਾ ।

ਅਜ਼ ਬਾਦਾਏ ਨਾਬ ਲਾਲ ਸੁਦ ਗੌਹਰੇ ਮਾ  
ਆਮਦ ਬਫ਼ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ਿ ਦਸਤ ਸਾਗਰੇ ਮਾ ।  
ਅਜ਼ ਬਸਕੇ ਹਮੀ ਖੁਰੇਸ ਮੈ ਬਰਸਰੇ ਮੈ  
ਮਾ ਦਰ ਸਰੇ ਮੈ ਸੁਦੇਸੇ ਮੈ ਦਰ ਸਰੇ ਮਾ ।

This means that wine brings about a blissful and an ecstatic state of mind.

**Mr. Speaker :** Even by my previous remark I wanted to pin you down to the Bill.

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, I was only explaining the various clauses of the Bill. I wished to point out that if we desired to make this amending Bill a success we should request our officers and other responsible public men to abstain from drinking. With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill for acceptance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is —

That the Punjab Excise [East Punjab Amendment] Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### CLAUSES 2 to 7

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### CLAUSE 8.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** Sir, I rise to oppose the clause now before the House. The clause as it stands does not find favour with me because it renders all the offences under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 61 of the parent Act non-bailable. I want the original section 72, which is sought to be amended by this measure, to stand. It provides that "all offences punishable under this Act shall be bailable within the meaning of Criminal Procedure Code, 1898." I suggest that all the offences under the Amending Bill should be made bailable as before. With these words I propose that the clause under consideration be deleted.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was lost.*

TITLE.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Labour and Excise :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Excise (East Punjab Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the Punjab Excise (East Punjab Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Shrimati Sita Devi** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, there is no doubt that the hon. Minister has done a great service to the province by placing this measure before this House and for this I wish to thank him from the bottom of my heart. I think that this Bill when passed into Act will do a great credit to this Government which has so far done little for the public good. But if I may be allowed to say so I have fears lest this measure should also meet the fate of several other Acts passed by this Assembly which were never properly | 5 P.M. | enforced. What I mean to say is that such Bills are enforced with strictness on the poor people such as labourers who have no voice anywhere and they are not applied at the place which is really affected with disease. If the purpose of this Bill is simply to arrest and to put into prison the poor people who drink inferior sort of country spirit and cannot afford to drink costly liquor, I have no hesitation in saying that it will not do much good. What is necessary is that it should be applied at the root of the disease. We see that the high officials of the Government itself indulge in excessive drinking not off and on but daily and the Government and the hon. Ministers are aware of this fact. I, therefore, submit that if this Bill is not properly enforced it cannot serve its purpose.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Drinking should be prohibited for the poor people while the rich should be made to part with their money.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** In the city where I live, I find that the officials of the Government daily visit the hotels. They not only drink there, but also indulge in other evils. Whereas I congratulate the hon. Minister on bringing forth this Bill, I would like to submit that it should also be enforced properly. I am afraid lest it should follow the fate of the Bill which was passed for the recovery of evacuee property. That Bill was mostly applied on the poor people and Harijans while the rich remained unaffected.

**Mr. Speaker :** That has no reference to the Bill. This is irrelevant.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** If this Bill is also enforced like that, it will remain a paper Bill like most others. It should be applied to the high officials and the capitalists whose evil habits are affecting not only young men but also young girls. The knife should be applied to the affected part and not elsewhere. With these words, I again congratulate the hon. Minister for Labour and Excise.

**Sardar Baahan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this amending Bill is no doubt an improvement on the original one to some extent. I therefore congratulate the hon. Minister in charge on bringing it before the House. But I am afraid the disease will not be completely rooted out even by this Bill. I have fears lest it should follow the fate of the Bill which was passed in the United Punjab for fixing an age limit for smoking. The fixing of the age limit can serve useful purpose only if it could be enforced properly. But we see that in actual practice it does not usually serve any useful purpose. I would, therefore, like to submit that, if the purpose of this Bill is to decrease the number of those who drink, the Government will have to be very alert and vigilant in the matter of its enforcement. I know that the Minister for Excise strongly feels that the use of liquor should come to an end as soon as possible. But this Bill, although not a half-hearted measure, can yet not serve the purpose completely. It might do some little good but the purpose of putting an end to the use of liquor in the province and also to stop the illicit income according to the Government from this source cannot be achieved. The high officials of the Government and even some of the Members of this hon. House use liquor.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think there should be no reflection on the Members of the House.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I withdraw these words if they are unpalatable. The Government should follow the example of the Madras Government if it is really earnest about putting an end to the curse of the use of liquor in our province. The Madras Government started prohibition in 1946 and now nobody out of the total population of five crores uses even a drop of liquor. We are ourselves yearning for such a state of affairs. We want that our province should also go ahead like that. Although this Bill does not wholly satisfy us and I have fears that it may remain only a dead letter, yet the Government should enforce it properly, so that the little that can be got out of it may not be misused. With these words, I submit that the Bill when it becomes an Act, should be strictly enforced so that the maximum benefit that can accrue from it may be got.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the people in the villages say that liquor cannot be a bad thing because it is used by the high officials of the Government as well as other big people. It is necessary that they should be convinced of the undesirability of the use of liquor. If the Government closes all liquor shops, the people will start illicit distillation. To prevent that, the Government should do some religious propaganda among the people along with the adoption of such legislative measures. These evils cannot be completely rooted out of our society unless the Government appeals to the religious instincts of the people. What is the state of affairs today ? Life in the villages is quite insecure. Not only material things but also women are abducted. It is highly essential that the people should be made to realise their religious and spiritual responsibilities and thus made to give up the evil habit of drinking.

**Pandit Jiwan Lal** (South-West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, before we ask other people to abstain from this evil it is essential that all of us in this House, including the hon. Ministers, should cleanse our own stables and avoid the evil.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should avoid personal reflections.

**Pandit Jiwan Lal :** There are some persons who take wine at the residence of some of the hon. Ministers. I want that big people should discard this evil habit and it will have good effect on the lower class of people also. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

The the Punjab Excise (East Punjab Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

### **AYURVEDIC AND UNANI PRACTITIONERS BILL.**

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, this Bill which seeks to provide facilities for the registration of Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners, meets a long standing demand. The purpose of the Bill is to make Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners registrable under a separate registering Board which will maintain a registrable for this purpose. At present there are certain institutions in India which give degrees and diplomas. There are some practitioners who don't have any degree whatsoever. But they have been practising for more than ten years. This Bill seeks to get such persons registered.

The proposed Bill also contemplates giving facilities to Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners in the matter of selling medicines. Under the provisions of the Drug Act that was passed by the Central Legislature and which is going to be strictly enforced in this province certain drugs can be dispensed by a licensed chemist only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner. The Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners using these medicines are anxious about their future because at present they are not registrable in any register and so are liable to come under the penal clauses of the said Act. By this legislation these practitioners will be enabled to prescribe these medicines. Representations have been made by some societies and associations that the facilit



provided under this Act are insufficient to meet their requirements. We have given careful consideration to the provisions of this Bill. It is to the advantage of the Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners themselves that the provisions are not so lenient as to lower their prestige in the eyes of the public. After a good deal of thinking such provisions have been made in the Bill as may lead to the prosperity of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. There is at present a prejudice against these practitioners. But after this Bill it will die down. With these words, Sir, I request the House to pass the Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the purpose for which this Bill is introduced is commendable. It satisfies a long-felt need. Only the other day the hon. Lady Member moved a resolution to the same effect. It is a matter of great pleasure that the Bill in its present form is before the House for consideration. The hon. Premier had promised to bring it before the House. The hon. Minister for Home and Revenue has stated that the object of this Bill is to save Hakims and Vaidas from the rigours of the Drug Act. He has also admitted that it does not go far to satisfy Hakims and Vaidas. In our province there are many private practitioners who are neither licensed doctors nor registered practitioners. These Allopathists Bio-Chemists and Homoeopaths have got no degrees or diplomas from any regular College. They have been practising for many years. They have experience in this line. Many of them came from Western Punjab, N. W. F. P. and other provinces of Pakistan. If we do not provide facilities for them their condition will be pitiable. We should help all the practitioners to whatever system they belong. If we don't do so, the province will also suffer. At present the number of regular licensed doctors is very small. If I were in England or Germany or America I would be one of those who say that only qualified doctors should be allowed to practise. If the conditions here had been as they are in those countries, I would not have allowed untrained hands to play with human lives. But unfortunately the state of affairs in our country is quite different. Here the number of medical practitioners who are qualified for the job is meagre. If the Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners are also included, even then the

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

number will be insufficient for our needs. So it is good that those experienced hands who have been working for more than ten years are proposed to be registered under the Act. But I am also of the opinion that the names of all the practitioners who practise in any system of medicine, whether allopathic or any other recognised system of medicine, should be registered. There are about a thousand practitioners in various villages and towns who are not well qualified. Government should make all-out efforts to rehabilitate them so that they may be able to eke out their living.

**Mr. Speaker :** Has the hon Member put in any amendments to this Bill ?

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** No, Sir, I have not put in any amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** I will allow you even now.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I received instructions not to move any amendment. Hence I was helpless and could not move any amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member was not speaking on the general principle of the Bill. He was suggesting certain amendments.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I shall be very thankful to the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill if he kindly agrees to refer it to a select committee, as has already been done by the hon. Development Minister in respect of his Bill. He may also fix the time when the report of this committee should be ready. I do not know whether or not he will accept my request. I would request the hon. Minister to keep in view the good of the general public and also those thousands of medical practitioners who have for long been practising and who have no other source of livelihood except this. Government would be doing something substantial by making certain necessary amendments in the Bill now before the House. Some provisions exist in the Bill regarding the registration of those persons who have been in regular practice for a period of not less than 10 years. It is also in the fitness of things to provide some other clauses in the Bill so that there may not be any defect whatsoever in it. I would also like to propose certain amendments, but I am afraid lest they should not fit in with the clauses of the Bill at this stage.

This is a very important Bill. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill to consider this matter and refer it to a select committee which may be asked to submit its report by tomorrow.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to endorse the views expressed by my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh, who just preceded me, on the Bill now before the House. It is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Drug Act is going to be strictly enforced in this province from 1st April 1949, under which popularly used sulphanomide group of drugs can be dispensed by a licensed chemist on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner only and not of any other practitioner. It is also provided in the Bill now before the House that those persons who have been in regular practice as Vaid and Hakims for a period of not less than 10 years preceding the date on which they make applications for being registered as practitioners, shall be entitled to have their names entered in the register.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** : Whether they may be qualified or not.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh** : Yes, it is quite clear from this that those persons who though unqualified but are of 10 years standing can also be registered under the Bill or in other words those person who may not be in possession of any diploma or degree can be registered under the Bill. It will not be out of place to mention here that a large number of allopathic practitioners who do not hold any diploma or degree with them, have not so far been able to register themselves. Some provisions should be made in the Bill for their registration also as it has been done for Vaid and Hakims. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that this Bill be referred to a select committee which may be asked to submit its report by tomorrow, with a view to enable this House to pass this important measure before the Assembly is adjourned. If this is done, I am sure certain amendments would be made in it which will go a long way in doing some justice to these poor unqualified allopathic practitioners. Let me, however, make this point clear that there are about five thousand allopathic practitioners who though unqualified are at present practising, but whose names have not so far been registered. The enforcement of the Drugs Act will, it is feared, result in a great hardship to poor refugee practitioners.

[Sardar Ujjal Singh]

Unless they are brought on the register, they will be deprived of their source of livelihood. In fact their profession will receive a death blow. Here I cannot do without saying that some of these practitioners who are otherwise unqualified and are not in possession of any diploma or degree, are more efficient than the qualified ones. It will not be out of place to mention here that in 1916 when the Medical Practitioners Act was passed, these unqualified practitioners did not register their names under this Act within the period of one year from the date from which it came into force as there existed no restriction on their practice. What I wish to point out is this that these poor practitioners though unqualified otherwise were already free to continue their practice but now they would not be able to carry on with their profession because of the enforcement of the Drugs Act. They would be hard hit and would thus be deprived of their source of livelihood. They would not now be able to prescribe drugs under the sulphonamide group nor would they be in a position to give certain types of injections to patients. Their practice would thus come to an end. Under the circumstances, it is in the fitness of things to make certain amendments in the proposed Bill, the provisions of which as they stand at present are not applicable to the allopathic practitioners. What I want is that certain amendments should be made in the Bill now before the House, to the effect that allopathic practitioners who are unqualified otherwise should be registered under it if they also have been in regular practice as practitioners for 10 years. Government, if so desired, can make a provision for a refresher course of 6 or 7 months for them. If this is not done, I am sure, the poor practitioners would be deprived of their practice, which happens to be the main source of their livelihood. Under the circumstances I would request the Minister in charge of the Bill to refer it to a select committee which should be asked to sit to-night and submit its report to the House tomorrow with a view to doing some justice to allopathic practitioners.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to make a few submissions in regard to the Bill now before the House. I find that the provisions of this Bill have been copied from the Bombay Act. But I am constrained to remark that we do not find certain important clauses in it. Government ought to have included such clauses in it which in my opinion are the need of the hour. Now that we have achieved our Independence, it is the bounden duty of our Government to recognise the indigenous medicines of our country. The British people have already made huge profits

by importing their medicines into this country. They have been carrying on much propaganda in favour of their medicines. To-day we see that people too are inclined to use foreign medicines. They are under the impression that Hukims and Vaidis are no good and that it is the allopathic doctors alone who can cure their ills. So long as fresh and indigenous medicines are not made available to Hakims and Vaidis, people would continue to be under the impression that the medicines of Hakims and Vaidis do not produce any results. Fresh medicines are not available in the market at all. 'Bunafsha' which is of common use, is not available in the market. Government should make it a point to make fresh medicines available to Hakims and Vaidis. They should also be provided with new types of instruments.

Sir, our ancient medical science was so sound and full of such potentialities, that, if we had not neglected it and had carried on researches and improvements in it, it would to-day have been the most advanced and highly developed system of medicine in the world, so much so that people from Europe and America would have come to our country to learn it. We are really fortunate in possessing a rich heritage of knowledge of every art and science. Sir, is there any field or branch of knowledge in which our 'rishis' of old did not excel? Now take this science of medicine. What do modern allopaths do while diagnosing? They apply stethoscope at numerous places on the body of the patient. Then they examine the pulse rate and see whether it is 72 or 74 or more. Then they would examine the breathing rate of the patient and see whether it is normal, above normal or below normal. The diagnosis does not end even here. They would then put a thermometer in the mouth of the patient and then under his arm, to find out his temperature and it is only then that they would form a tentative conclusion about the disease! On the other hand our 'Vaidis' of old, by a single glance at the patient's face, could tell the disease he was suffering from. Sir, as you are aware among our Vaidis, there used to be such experts, as could tell every thing about the patient by just feeling his pulse or by a look at his urine. If only the Government had given a little encouragement to the indigenous system of medicine, they could be easily adapted and improved to meet all the medical requirements of our modern age. Given the necessary facilities and some encouragement, I am sure our 'Vaidis' would prove capable of discovering



[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

and preparing such Ayurvedic drugs as would prove far more efficacious than the corresponding allopathic drugs.

Sir, it is matter for great regret that 'Vaid's' and 'Hakims' should not have the privilege and should not be considered qualified enough to give evidence at any inquest or in any court of law, like other medical practitioners. I wonder why they should be discriminated against in this matter. They are in no way less qualified than allopathic practitioners. They too get their degrees and diplomas after undergoing a regular course of training for four years. Sir, I would strongly urge that like other medical practitioners, they should also be given the privilege of giving evidence in law courts.

There is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. Even if an allopathic practitioner kills a patient by administering poison to him by mistake, no suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings can be instituted against him. What I want to urge is that such indemnity should be allowed to Vaid's and Hakims as well. In their case too, it should be laid down that no legal proceedings, suit or prosecution shall be instituted against them, if any mishap happened resulting in the death of the patient, while they were treating him in good faith.

Now I would like to say a few words about the classification of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners which has been laid down in this Bill. While it is proposed to allow the right of giving medical and physical fitness certificates to those practitioners who hold a diploma or who have passed some examination, this right has been denied to those Vaid's and Hakims who have experience of numerous years to their credit but who unfortunately have not passed any examination. I feel, Sir, that this distinction would result in a great hardship and injustice to the Vaid's of very long standing and would humiliate them in the eyes of youngsters who have studied in a School or College and hold some certificate or diploma. Does our Government think that those inexperienced youngmen who have attended a few year's course and have afterwards served as apprentices with reputed Vaid's, having experience of 20 years or more to their credit, are superior to their "gurus" simply because they hold a certificate or a diploma? How is it then that the Government is prepared to recognize the certificate given by the former and not of the latter? I can't understand why this privilege should be denied to old veterans who



have been in the profession since very long and among whom are such experts as can diagnose the case by casting a single glance at the patient. Sir, I would urge the Government to make a provision for allowing this privilege to at least those practitioners of this group, whom the Board declares fit for this purpose.

There is another very important matter to which attention has not been paid while framing this Bill. At present, there are Vaidys and Hakims who administer allopathic drugs along with Ayurvedic and Unani drugs. You will find them using tincture iodine and many kinds of pills and patent allopathic medicines. I feel, Sir, that this practice should be put an end to immediately and provision should be made in the Bill for this purpose. Those who practise any indigenous system of medicine should be compelled to use drugs of that system only. Mixing of different systems constitutes a danger to the health of the people and should be prohibited. There has been considerable advance and development in the indigenous systems and they can meet all the medical requirements of the practitioners provided they keep themselves abreast of the latest researches and their knowledge up-to-date. I again stress the necessity of preventing Vaidys from using allopathic drugs.

Sir, these are some of the suggestions that I wanted to make in connection with this Bill. I have given notices of amendments accordingly. I join my friends, who have spoken before me, in urging upon the Government not to insist on the immediate passage of this Bill and allow it to be considered by a Select Committee which can, if desired, hold a meeting at night so that when this legislation is enacted, it is free from defects and omissions as far as possible.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have given notice of an amendment to this Bill also. I wanted to move that this Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by 30th September, 1949. But as this Bill is of a very urgent nature and it is very necessary to pass it in this very session, I would be satisfied if it is referred to a Select Committee. It must not be passed without being referred to a Select Committee. My hon. Friends who have spoken before me have adduced a number of arguments in this connection.

Sir, it was just on the 26th March when this Bill was received from the press and it was probably on the 29th or 30th March, that it reached the members. Then the House was adjourned for three days

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

and the members have come back from their homes only today. I am sure, most of the hon. Members have not been able to find time to read this lengthy Bill containing about forty clauses. I can't understand why the Government is showing undue haste in getting this measure passed. Why can't this Bill wait for a day or two? What does the Government mean by rushing through this important legislation? I can't understand why ten or twelve important Bills have been placed on to-day's agenda. Sir, in my opinion we would be guilty of dereliction of duty, if we allow such important legislation to pass without sufficient discussion? I would join my hon. Friends who have spoken before me in urging the Government that should be referred to a Select Committee, with a direction to submit its this Bill report by to-morrow so that it may be possible to examine it closely with a view to freeing it from defects and omissions. Sir, I really wonder for what extraneous reasons and circumstances the Government is in a hurry to get all this legislation passed to-day, When such sober members as Sardar Bachan Singh and Sardar Ujjal Singh the latter is by the way the oldest legislator and has been in this line since 1926 whose attitude has always been helpful to the Government in legislative business, want that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, I don't see any apparent reason for Government's hesitation to accept this suggestion. It is not wise on its part to ignore the opinion of such persons. Even if we may have to work at night, we shall insist on the examination of such a lengthy Bill by a Select Committee and would not agree to its immediate passage. I don't think any misfortune will befall our Government or its honour and prestige will receive a set back, if this Bill is to-day referred to a Select Committee for close examination and is brought before the House again to-morrow.

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is that there should remain no flaw in the legislation and nobody should have a chance to say that the legislators in the East Punjab work with undue haste. My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran singh is a reasonable man and I hope that he will accept this amendment like the Minister of Development who has shown broadmindedness by accepting a similar amendment to another Bill. We should carefully scrutinise this Bill and then put it before the public. A large number of people will be affected by this legislation apart from medical practitioners.

*(Interruption by Sardar Shiv Saran Singh)*

Sir, I can say with confidence that the hon. Member has not even cared to study this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to make any reflection upon any other hon. Member. Every member is expected to read every Bill that comes before the House.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal:** Sir, if the hon. Member had not made these remarks, I would have also kept quite. I was saying that this Bill is very important and will be applicable to all vaidis and hakims and particularly refugees. I do not think that heavens will fall if this Bill is referred to a Select Committee. We should not rush through this Bill hurriedly which covers ten pages. I hope that my amendment will be accepted.

**Shrimati Sita Devi** (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban (*Hindustani*)). Sir, I feel great pleasure that a resolution which was given notice of by me in the last session has now been introduced in the House in the form of a Bill. At that time the hon. Premier had assured the House that the Government will introduce the Bill after the report of Chopra Committee is published. I congratulate the hon. Premier on having fulfilled his promise and on introducing this Bill which regulates the qualifications and provides for the registration of practitioners of the Indian systems of medicines. By his action he has made it clear that the Government does not adopt dilatory tactics but always implements its promises. I would now urge the Government to pass the Bill as early as possible as any delay will be detrimental to the interests of thousands of displaced medical practitioners. They will not be able to eke out their subsistence and will be reduced to abject straits. This Bill should not be postponed but be passed during this session. I have studied the whole Bill and have also seen the amendments moved by the hon. Members. In my opinion the amendments are quite simple and it would not be difficult for the Government to accept them. The Bill should not be referred to a Select Committee but the best solution would be to accept the minor amendments which are useful to be incorporated in the Bill. These amendments should be passed in the House and accepted. After that if it is considered necessary to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, its report may be called by tomorrow and the Bill passed. The Government does not stand to lose by accepting the minor amendments in the Bill which are to the interest of

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. At any rate, I urge the Government that the Bill be passed forthwith.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members for their suggestions and it appears from their speeches that they have thoroughly studied the Bill. The hon. lady Member Shrimati Sita Devi has rightly remarked that the Government has implemented its promise made during the last session by bringing forward a measure to regulate the qualifications and to provide for the registration of practitioners of Indian systems of medicine. It is, therefore, necessary that in view of the promise, we should pass this Bill as early as possible. I am not in favour of referring this Bill to a Select Committee as it will not serve any useful purpose to do so. It is just possible that by this dilatory motion the Bill may not be passed. The amendments given notice of by the hon. Members and the views expressed by them are not such which may necessitate the reference of the Bill to a select committee. There are two main objections which have been raised in the speeches of Sardar Bachan Singh and Sardar Ujjal Singh that by the provision of this legislation Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners will be able to prescribe for their patients the drugs mentioned in schedule H of the Drugs Act. But I would point out to them that this Bill does not seek to amend the Drugs Act or to provide any exception to that Act. This Bill has been introduced to raise the status of vaid and hakims. In my opinion, we will be doing an injustice to the allopathic and homeopathic medical practitioners, if they too are brought under the scope of this Bill. Neither can the present Bill be suitably drafted to include them in it, nor will they be benefited by its provisions.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh:** It can be easily modified to cover their case.

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I beg to submit that the provision of the suggested facilities under the Drugs Act to un-registered allopathic and homoeopathic practitioners is an altogether different subject. Their case should not be mixed up with the object sought to be achieved by the present Bill. Suggestions made by hon. Members can be separately examined and the Drugs Act can be so amended as to extend its scope to those allopathic and homoeopathic practitioners, who cannot be registered under the Medical Practitioners Act.

No other reason has been advanced for referring this Bill to the Select Committee. I, therefore, propose that it be taken into consideration at once.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh:** May I know if the hon. Minister is prepared to so amend the Medical Practitioners Act as to enable the un-registered practitioners of a standing of ten years or more to get themselves registered?

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** I am prepared to examine that case but I cannot make a firm commitment that necessarily an amendment will be made. The distinction has been kept in mind between the Allopathic practitioners and the vaid and Hakims for whom this legislation is being enacted for the first time. Besides, the case of unqualified Allopaths is different. Institutions which turn out qualified allopathic practitioners have been in existence for half a century or more. Hence the case of unqualified practitioners is one which requires closer scrutiny. However, I am prepared to examine their case separately if there are any cases of hardship.

**Sardar Ujjal Singh:** The registration of unqualified practitioners has assumed importance because of the passing of the Drugs Act. Previously it was not enforced and that is why I request the hon. Minister to amend the Medical Practitioners Act or to bring that matter under this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*



## Clause 2.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is-

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## Clause 3

**Shrimati Sita Devi** (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*):- Sir, I beg to move-

That in sub clause (2), line 1, for the figure '11' substitute the figure '15'.

In the clause under consideration, it has been laid down that the proposed Board shall consist of eleven members. Hakims and Vaidas have got their organisation in every town of the province. If a certain organisation is not represented on the proposed Board, its members are apt to feel that their interests are being ignored. In order that all these organisations may find representation on the Board, I have proposed that it should consist of fifteen members instead of eleven. I hope that the hon. Minister-in-charge will have no objection in accepting my amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved-

That in sub clause (2), line 1, for the figure 11 substitute the figure 15.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh) (*Punjabi*); I regret my inability to accept the amendment proposed by the hon. lady Member. The proposed Board will not be a legislative body, which should require representatives of every organisation. The functions of this Board will be of an executive nature and a body with large membership cannot take executive action without delay. It will have to meet very frequently and if four more members are included in it, the Government will have to incur additional expenditure on account of their travelling allowance etc. The membership of eleven is quite sufficient, as it is not intended to set up a Panchayat of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. I hope that in view of these reasons, the hon. Member will withdraw the amendment.

**Shrimati Sita Devi:** Mr. Speaker, I admit that the hon. Minister-in-charge is a lawyer and nobody in this House can compete with him in advancing arguments. There was sufficient reason for my moving the amendment, but in view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister that he would give sufficient



representation to Hakims and Vaidas on the proposed Board, I withdraw my amendment.

*The motion was by leave withdrawn.*

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma): Sir, I move—

That in sub-clause (2) after the figure and the word "11 members" the word "residing in East Punjab" be inserted,

*The motion was carried.*

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Narotam Singh): Sir I move—

That in sub-clause (2) (a) between the words "East Punjab" and "for the purpose" the words "and affiliated to the Board" be inserted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clauses 4 to 17.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That clauses 4 to 17 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clause 18.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Narotam Singh) : Sir, I move—

That the full stop at the end of sub-clause (2) be changed to colon and the following proviso be added:—

"provided that a certificate of illness may be issued by any practitioner registered under this Act."

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker.** Question is—

That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Clauses 19 to 39.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is :—

That clauses 19 to 39 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Schedule.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is--

That the schedule be the schedule of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is--

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is--

That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

Title.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is-

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Home and Revenue:** Sir, I move-

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill, as amended be passed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved-

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill, as amended, be passed.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I do not want to make any lengthy speech at this stage. I earnestly desire that this Bill should be passed as soon as possible. But I wish to draw the attention of the Government to one thing and it is that due weight should have been given to my suggestion regarding appointment on the Board of persons residing in the East Punjab. I do not find any reason in appointing persons from outside East Punjab and I request that Government should reconsider my suggestion if it is possible to adopt it.

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** We have accepted that suggestion.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh Rural), (*Hindustani*): Sir, the statement of objects and reasons attached to this Bill runs as follows :—

“ Under the provisions of the Drugs Act that was passed by the Central Legislature in 1940 and which is going to be strictly enforced in this Province from the 1st of April 1949, certain poisonous drugs included in Schedule ‘ H ’ of the Act can be dispensed by a licensed chemist only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner. This schedule contains the popularly-used Sulphonamide group of drugs. These drugs, along with some other medicines, are being used by Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners. This class of persons is anxious about their future as at present they are not registerable in any register ”.

This clearly shows that the object of this Bill is to give the rights now enjoyed by the qualified medical practitioners to Vaid and Hakims as well and the hon. Home Minister has repeated the same thing in reply to a question from my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh. It is indeed very good of the Government to give some concessions to those Vaid and Hakims who have a practice of ten years. But, in my opinion, it would have been much better if these concessions were also extended to practitioners of systems other than the Ayurvedic and the Unani, for example allopathy etc. Now by the passage of this Bill when the Vaid and the Hakims benefit, persons practising other systems that is, allopathy etc., will be victimised. Unlike Vaid and Hakims they will not be entitled to the use of poisonous drugs. This in other words means that lakhs of people who are at present being treated by these practitioners will have to go without their services. Such a thing will entail great hardship not only for the patients but for the practitioners as well who will swell the ranks of the unemployed. I may say that it might prove harmful for the public peace. I, therefore, request the Government that the concession of being registered after 10 years practice which is now being given to the Hakims and Vaid under this Bill should be afforded to allopathic practitioners as also to the practitioners of other systems as well. But to achieve this end an amending Bill will have to come before this House and that may take time. In these circumstances, it is suggested that in the meanwhile temporary arrangement should be made by virtue of which these unlicensed and unregistered practitioners may be enabled to use poisonous drugs for the benefit of their patients.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Sir, before I finish my speech I feel like repeating that the Bill before the House is a very useful measure and it will be more so if the practitioners practising systems of medicine other than those of Unani and Ayurvedic are also made to benefit by it. But this necessitates an amending Bill and I hope that on the persuasion of hon. Minister for Home and Revenue who has promised to consider this case sympathetically, Government will come forth with the necessary amendment at an early date.

**Mehta Ranbir Singh** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I don't want to make a lengthy speech because I agree with most of the things said by my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh. I would, however, like to place two or three facts more before the House. There is quite a large number of unqualified medical practitioners in our province who due to certain unavoidable circumstances could not get their degrees. In spite of the difficulties that were in their way, they started practice. Some of them are in many respects better qualified than most of the Unani and Ayurvedic doctors and Hakims and as such are better persons to use the dangerous drugs. Moreover, they have got education in allopathic system of medicine to some extent. Some of them were forced to go on strike during their College days and thus they had to discontinue their studies after three or four years' stay at the College. After that they started their private practice. In this way, they have not only served the people but have also acquired reputation for themselves in their profession. They served the people in the villages at a time when the number of qualified doctors was not sufficient. By denying them the use of all sorts of medicines, the Government will be doing an injustice not only to them but also to the people in the villages. I think that the popular Government of our province has already done a service to the people by passing this Bill. I also hope that taking into consideration the feelings of a large number of unqualified medical practitioners, it will take steps to see that those people are not deprived of their right to use all sorts of drugs. With these words, I hope that the hon. Minister will do the needful in this matter.

**Minister for Home and Revenue** (The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members of the House for the co-operation shown by them in facilitating the passage of this important Bill. This Bill is important from many points of view. For the first time Sir, we are giving official recognition to two indigenous systems of medicine,

namely, Ayurvedic and Unani. Hitherto, medical practitioners practising these forms of medicines had always been receiving a step-motherly treatment. It was rightly put forward as a grievance on their part that they did not enjoy a status which was given to the medical practitioners who practised allopathy. By making suitable provisions in this Bill, it is ensured that they will enjoy the same status which was enjoyed by the allopaths. That alone is not enough, Sir; there must be a body that will not only register them but also ensure that those who practised this line of medicine should have a proper training. The Board of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine will make proper arrangements for imparting proper training to the Vaidis and also have the authority to prescribe courses of training and qualifications etc. Therefore, the views expressed from a certain quarter of the House that this Bill is being enacted only with a view to make them immune from the restrictive provisions of the Drugs Act is not a correct appreciation of the provisions of this Bill. This Bill is confined not merely to the removal of certain disabilities which would have attached to them under the Drugs Act, if this Bill were not there, but Sir, apart from that there are other privileges which a practitioner after registration will be entitled to enjoy. The most important privilege to my mind is the status which will be given to the Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. Their certificates and their dispensations will be viewed by the Government and others in the same way and same light in which the certificates and dispensations of other medical practitioners are viewed. Therefore, Sir, to say that it is a very narrow type of legislation enacted merely to give facilities under the Drugs Act is not, I submit, a correct appreciation of this Bill. This Bill goes much further than mere removal of disabilities and the fundamental basis of this is the official recognition of these two systems of medicine and the people who are duly qualified will be given the same privileges as are enjoyed by the allopathic doctors. Not only that as is very clearly laid down in paragraph 3 of the statement of Objects and Reasons, there is a substantial improvement in the existing state of affairs. A Board is to be constituted and the object of the Board is stated as follows in paragraph 3 :

"The proposed Bill contemplates the constitution of a Board of Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of Medicine with authority to prescribe courses of training, qualifications, etc., and to ensure the maintenance of an adequate standard of proficiency in the practice of these systems of medicine."

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

It is hoped that by the passage of this Bill and by the effective enforcement of the various provisions of this Bill it will be ensured that these two systems will receive recognition which they rightly deserve and the practitioners who are practising these systems of medicines will march towards the enrichment of their knowledge and giving better service to the people of this province. With these words and the assurance that the other points that have been raised about the persons who practise Allopathy and do not possess any degrees, will be examined with a view to ensure that undue hardship is not caused to those people who should not be subjected to that hardship, Sir, I thank the House once again and assure it that this measure will be worked and enforced in the spirit of enhancing the prestige of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners and ensuring that they rendered greater services to the suffering people of this province. Sir, with these words I request that the Bill be passed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is-

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners Bill, as amended, be passed.

*The motion was carried*

## URBAN RENT RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister For Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):-  
Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Finance:** I beg to move:—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved-

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** (Ambala Division Land-holders) :  
Sir, when this Bill came before us, a large majority of the members of this House were surprised as to what was the necessity of bringing this discriminatory measure and rushing it through with such great speed. It is noteworthy that this Bill was gazetted on the 29th



March and it is being rushed through today with the utmost speed because Government does not want any criticism or public opinion on it. Now, Sir, if you just refer to the statement of objects and reasons, you will find that this is a very misleading statement as it fails to give any clear reason as to why there has been a necessity for introducing this Bill. In fact, Simla is agog with the question why Government is keen to bring this measure on the statute book. Actually, the common man in the street is doubting the bonafides of the Government for bringing in this legislation. I may point out that the Rent Restriction Act in itself has entailed a great hardship on the landlords. Leave aside the merits and demerits of the Bill under consideration, the fact remains that fixation of rents of buildings in Simla not exceeding the basic rent is a great injustice to the landlords. I don't see any reason why only Simla be singled out for this purpose and Government should run away with the idea that the basic rent at Simla would be quite enough while it is going to be increased all over the province. There can be no two opinions about the fact that Simla is the most costly place as compared with any other town in the province. The Government should have, therefore, thought twice before bringing in this discriminatory measure. The landlords here deserve an increase in the rent because the cost of maintenance is very heavy. Besides, the essential materials for building are not made available by the Government to the landlords at cheap rates. They have got to be purchased in the black-market and it is common knowledge that the prices in the black-market are always much more high than in the open market. Then comes the question of labour. It is difficult to get skilled labour in Simla for purposes of keeping the houses in reasonably good order. If at all it is available, the wages are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times higher than those in the plains, and Six times higher than what it used to be in pre-war days. When these facts are brought to the notice of the hon. Minister, I believe if he is a reasonable person, he should really withdraw this Bill. If he does not find favour with this idea, he should at least circulate it for eliciting public opinion thereon. Then, Sir, if you just take into consideration as to what the Government of India is doing regarding rents in the hill stations elsewhere, you will find that it has actually sanctioned five per cent increase over what it is in the plains. This is a very reasonable position because if the houses are to be maintained in a reasonably good condition and the tenant is to be satisfied by the upkeep of the house by the landlord and the latter is to be satisfied for the return he gets for the capital he has invested in that building, then money must be

[Pt. Durga Chand Kaushish]

provided and that can be provided out of the rent only. Then the next point is that the houses at Simla are having greater strain than they used to have during pre-war years. Actually, houses used to be occupied for six months and so were shops. Now they are being occupied throughout the year for residential purposes. So far as bigger shops are concerned, they have been split up into two or three portions with a view to accommodating the displaced business-men. But naturally this means increased and bigger strain on the permanent structure. I think in that case the Government should have seen its way to provide more money to the landlords to keep the buildings in a good condition. But what would be the reaction if this Bill is passed? The relation between the landlord and the tenant will become strained. There will be increased litigation. The efforts of the landlord will be to get rid of the tenant and make money by giving it to some one who is prepared to pay more in view of the scarcity of housing accommodation. This he will be obliged to do to meet the higher costs of maintenance and upkeep of the house. So it would be in the interest of the tenants themselves if a certain fair amount is allowed to the landlord for the upkeep of the building in a good condition.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I know whether the parent Bill of which this is an amendment, has received the assent of the Governor after it was passed by this House? An amendment to that Act can only be made if it has received the assent of the Governor.

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*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, 5th April 1949.*

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# East Punjab Legislative Assembly

## 3rd Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 5th April 1949

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M.  
of the clock Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### REHABILITATION OF HINDU AND SIKH TENANTS-AT-WILL FROM WEST PUNJAB

**\*680. Pandit Mohan Lall :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Hindu and Sikh tenants-at-will who cultivated land in West Punjab and who were forced to leave their lands on Partition and to migrate to East Punjab ;
- (b) the steps which the Government has taken or proposes to take for the purpose of rehabilitating them ?

**The hon. Sardar Pratap Singh :**

- (a) The number of Hindu and Sikh tenant cultivators who have migrated from West Punjab to East Punjab is not known, but it may be in the neighbourhood of about 70,000 families.
- (b) In East Punjab 41,795 families of displaced tenants-at-will from West Punjab at present hold temporary allotments. Steps for the rehabilitation of tenants in the light of quasi-permanent allotment are under the consideration of Government.

#### BUILDINGS ALLOTTED TO VICTORIA DIAMOND JUBILEE HINDU TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF LAHORE

**\*901. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some buildings were allotted to the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hindu Technical Institute, Railway Road, Lahore, in Jullundur City ;
- (b) whether the said institution has succeeded in taking possession of the building ; if not, the reasons thereof ; if so, the date of application, allotment, and possession respectively ?

**The hon. Sardar Pratap Singh :**

- (a) Yes.

- (b) Possession has not as yet been delivered to the institution. Notices are being issued to the present allottees to vacate the required premises by the 15th April, 1949. It was not possible to deliver possession to the institution earlier, as the present occupants had submitted representations against their eviction which were under Government's consideration.

### MEMBERS OF THE MOTOR TRANSPORT GOODS CARRIER CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD., AMBALA

\*898. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of members district-wise of the Motor Transport Goods Carrier Co-operative Society, Ltd., Ambala ;
- (b) whether the Muslim members of the Society referred to above who evacuated to Pakistan have been replaced by the persons belonging to the same district ; if not the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :**

	Name of District	No. of members
(a) 1.	Ambala	23
2.	Rohtak	34
3.	Karnal	7
4.	Hissar	6
5.	Gurgaon	4
6.	Simla	1
7.	Jind in Patiala and East Punjab States Union	1
	Total	76

(b) Six Muslim members of the Society evacuated from Ambala district and five from Rohtak district. They have been replaced by seven members belonging to Ambala district and four belonging to Rohtak district. The question of replacement of the remaining 10 Muslim evacuee members, belonging to Karnal, Hissar and Gurgaon districts is under the consideration of the Society.

The selection of members is the function of the Selection Board of the Society and Government have no hand in that selection.

### SEED FARMS IN THE PROVINCE

\*1071. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the places at which the seed farms have been opened by the Agriculture Department, East Punjab, in the Province together with the <sup>annual</sup> expenditure and income of each of the farms ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the table.

Names of places where seed farms have been opened	Annual Expenditure	Annual Income
1	2	3
	1947-48 1948-49 1947-48 1948-49 Rs. Rs. Rs. Rs.	
1. Abchar (Ferozepur district).	10,270 23,810 56,857 1,41,900	
2. Sirsa (Hissar district)	1,735 4,850 6,788 8,000	
3. Jamalpur (Gurdaspur district).	These seed farms have been opened during the course of the current financial year. The accounts of their annual expenditure and income would be available next year.	
4. Jundla (Karnal district).		
5. Kalachian (Amritsar district).		
6. Mirza-ki-Patti (Hissar district).		
7. Nurpur (Kangra district)		
8. Bijora Shamsi (Kangra district).		

### NOMINATION OF PERSONS TO LOCAL BODIES DEFEATED IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS

**\*919. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :

- whether it is a fact that the Government decided some months ago that no person will be nominated to local bodies to fill up the Muslim vacancies who stood for the election but were defeated in the previous elections of local bodies ; if so, the date on which this decision was made ;
- whether it is a fact that in pursuance of this policy the Commissioner, Ambala Division, called upon Shri Tarlok Chand, nominated member of Kalka Municipal Committee, to resign his seat ;
- whether any persons have been nominated as members of Amritsar District Board to fill up the vacancies of two elected Muslim members of Sub-Tehsil Patti ; if so, their names together with the date of their nomination ;
- whether any resolution passed by the Patti Sub Tehsil Congress Committee on 29th. January 1949, stating that a certain person had been nominated as Member of Amritsar

District Board who was defeated in the election of Lahore District Board of 1946 was received by hon. Minister ;

- (e) whether the Government proposes to cancel his nomination ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :**

(a) No. The decision that any person, who had sought election to a local body, but had been defeated, should not be nominated to a local body was made in 1940.

(b) Yes. Shri Tarlok Chand was asked to resign in accordance with this policy.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

#### STRICTURES BY HIGH COURT AGAINST DISTRICT OFFICERS OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

\*908. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court passed strictures against the Additional District Magistrate, Superintendent Police, and Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur in the Judgment of *Habeas Corpus* Petition of Ch. Balbir Singh ;

(b) the action Government has taken on them ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** Attention is invited to the answer given to <sup>stand</sup> Assembly Question No. 677.<sup>1</sup>

#### WITHDRAWAL OF CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS PUTTING UP IN SUMMER HILL AND JUTOG IN SIMLA

\*909. **Pandit Sri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that conveyance allowance was allowed to clerks of the Secretariat, Simla, who have been given quarters at Summer Hill and Jutog ;

(b) whether that allowance was stopped after 6 months; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the reasons for allowing it in the first instance and then for discontinuing the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

(a) Yes.

<sup>1</sup> Vide page. debates of 4.4.1949



(b) and (c) Yes. The conveyance allowance was sanctioned in the first instance on the analogy of a similar concession by the Government of India. It was discontinued in view of the urgent need for economy. The concession was withdrawn by the Government of India also in the case of their servants.

**\*999. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that all the registered deeds which were presented before the Sub-Registrar, Kasur, by the non-Muslim inhabitants of Sub-Tehsil Patti area, which now forms part of the Amritsar district, a few weeks before the Partition have been sent back to them after making entries in the copying registers ;
- (b) what steps, if any, have so far been or proposed to be taken by the Government to get them from the Pakistan Government and send the same to their rightful owners ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

- (a) No.
- (b) Now that attention has been drawn by the hon. Member, the matter shall be taken up at next meeting of the Partition Committee.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICE UNDER GOVERNMENT OF STUDENTS EDUCATED IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

**\*1076. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether the students who received education in National Schools and Colleges have been made eligible for service under Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** Government has already recognised the B.A. (National) degree of the Qaumi Vidya Pith for purposes of appointment to posts under the Government of the East Punjab as equivalent to the B.A. degree of the <sup>University of the</sup> East Punjab or of the United Punjab and that the question of recognition of a similar degree of another institution is receiving the attention of Government.

#### REGARDING QUANTITY OF CLOTH RECEIVED BY DEPOT-HOLDERS OF KOT KHAI, DISTRICT SIMLA

**\*1079. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether representations about the inferiority and

unsuitability of cloth received by the Depot-Holders of the Kot Khai Tehsil, District Simla, have been received by the Government ; if so, what action, if any, has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : Only one representation was received by Government from the Depot-Holders of Kot Khai Tehsil. The latter were called for by the District Civil Supplies and Textile Officer, Simla, and suitable cloth according to their requirements was issued to them.

#### LADY DOCTOR FOR HOSPITAL AT KOT KHAI, DISTRICT SIMLA

\*1080. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a lady doctor or a nurse has been sanctioned by the Government for Kot Khai Hospital, District Simla ; if so, the date by which she is likely to join her post ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : The post of a woman Sub Assistant Surgeon and a Nurse Dai are sanctioned for Kot Khai dispensary. Arrangements are being made to fill these posts at an early date.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : How long will it take to fill up the posts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I cannot tell the exact date. Probably in a month's time.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : May I know the reason why the Government has taken such a long time to fill up these posts ? Were the posts sanctioned 8 months back ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I require notice.

#### RETAIL LICENCES OF CLOTH TO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

\*1082. **Chaudhri Jagdish Chander** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of retail licences of cloth held by Co-operative Societies, district-wise, in the year 1947 ;
- (b) the number of such licences given to the Co-operative Societies in the new arrangement of cloth distribution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh): The required information is given in the following statement :

Name of the district	No. of retail licences held by Co-operative Societies in 1947	No. of retail licences given to Co-operative Societies during this control
1. Simla.	2	5
2. Ambala.	Record not available	8
3. Hissar.	4	1
4. Rohtak.	31	38
5. Karnal.	2	3
6. Gurgaon.	Nil	2
7. Kangra.	3	2
8. Gurdaspur.	2	12
9. Hoshiarpur.	6	16
10. Ludhiana.	86	34
11. Jullundur.	Nil	20
12. Ferozepur.	5	8
13. Amritsar.	Nil	4
	141	153

### FOODGRAINS AT CHEAP RATES

\*1083. **Chaudhri Jagdish Chander** : will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- the expenditure incurred by the Government on the establishment employed in connection with the rationing of foodgrains ;
- the amount of the cost borne by the East Punjab Government for supplying foodgrains at cheap rates ;
- whether there are any arrangements of supplying foodgrains to the rural population at cheap rates. If not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) The estimated expenditure on the staff during the year 1948-49 is Rs. 26,18,000.

(b) The reference to " cost borne " is not quite clear. The expenditure on staff has been given in (a) above. Issues of foodgrains to consumers are made on " no profit no loss " basis. The

comparatively high price of imported foodgrains is subsidised by the Central and Provincial Governments in the ratio of 2 : 1 up to 30th September 1948 and 3 : 1 thereafter. The share of this Province for the year 1948-49 is estimated at Rs. 35,80,000 and that of the Central Government at Rs. 89,00,000 (round).

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to part (b) of the Starred Question No. 655.<sup>1</sup>

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the price of wheat in U.P., C.P. and some other Provinces is much less than it is in the East Punjab ?

**Premier :** I require notice to find out the rates that are prevailing in other Provinces. I may, however, inform the hon. member that the rate in the East Punjab has been fixed with the consultation of the Government of India.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** It is a fact that the price in other Provinces is lower than it is in our Province. The Premier is expected to know better.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. lady Member is giving rather than seeking information.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodda :** Is it a fact that the price of gram fixed by the Government is more than the market price ? If so will the Government consider the desirability of reducing the price ?

**Premier :** The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered.

#### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES TO GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DUTIES

\*1084. **Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Parliamentary Secretaries together with total monthly salary drawn by them ;
- (b) the duties assigned to them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shive Saran Singh) :**

(a) and (b) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Starred Assembly Question No. 688<sup>2</sup> given during <sup>the</sup> current Session.

<sup>1</sup>Vide page 519 of *supra*

<sup>2</sup>Vide page (15) 8 *supra*

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the Parliamentary Secretary know that Mr. Virendra made a speech in the House some days ago in which he said that the Parliamentary Secretaries were only doing chaprasis' work ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** Yes. The speech was made in the House and is known to everybody.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** In view of the fact that the Parliamentary Secretaries are doing no work except, of course, chaprasis' job, does the Government not consider it necessary to give them some work ?

**Minister :** Whatever Shri Virendra said in his speech was an exaggeration. The suggestion that Parliamentary Secretaries should be given more work can be considered.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Do I take it that this exaggeration is based on some facts ?

**Minister :** No, it is mere exaggeration.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is it not a fact that these Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed for canvassing votes in favour of the Ministry ?

**Premier :** This is a baseless insinuation.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Has the Government considered the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee about the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

**Minister :** The recommendations have not yet come to us.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** The hon. Premier once said that 28 resolutions of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have been received.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question does not arise.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Is it a fact that the Government for some time has been thinking to change the designation 'Parliamentary Secretaries' to 'Ministerial Stooges' ?

**Minister :** No.

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**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HON. MINISTERS  
FOR ATTENDING THE SESSION OF THE ALL INDIA  
CONGRESS HELD AT JAIPUR**

\*1085. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether some of the hon. Ministers who visited Jaipur at the time of the last session of All India Congress held there drew T. A. for their journey to Jaipur and back ; if so, the total amount received by each of them on this account ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : Yes.  
The required information is given below :

1. Honourable Premier, Rs. 296-4-0 (from Delhi to Jaipur and back).
2. Honourable Minister for Home and Revenue, Rs. 238-12-0 (from Delhi to Jaipur and back).
3. Honourable Minister for Public Works, Rs. 228-12-0 (from Nuh to Jaipur and back).
4. Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Rs. 307-8-0 (from Delhi to Jaipur and back).
5. Honourable Minister for Labour and Exise—No travelling allowance was charged as he travelled in Honourable Minister for Public Works car.

**Pandit Mohan Lal** : May I know what work was transacted by the hon. Ministers at Jaipur for which they have drawn Travelling Allowance ?

**Premier** : It was Government work.

**Pandit Mohan Lal** : What was the nature of the work ?

**Premier** : I am not prepared to reply to this question in detail.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Is it not a fact that the Ministers went to Jaipur to see the Congress Session ?

**Premier** : This is a baseless insinuation.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra** : When the cars of the Ministers consume equal petrol and the distance travelled was the same why is there so much difference in the amount of T. A. drawn by them ?

**Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member will find answer to his question in the reply given. The Ministers did not travel the same distance, they went from different places.

## REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CHOUKIDARS IN VILLAGES

\*703. **Chaudhri Lahri Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the salary of village chaukidars has been increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 20 per month recently;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to reduce their number in each village to lighten the burden of the increased incidence of the chaukidara tax ;



- (c) whether any chaukidara cess in any form is levied and realized from the urban population; if not, the reasons for distinction between urban and rural areas in this behalf?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes. The pay of chaukidars has been increased in all districts but it varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per mensem.
- (b) The matter is under consideration of Government.
- (c) No, as chaukidars are not employed in urban areas.

**Thakur Dalip Singh :** Is the Government prepared to pay the village chaukidars from its own treasury?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** This is a suggestion which can be considered.

#### DEFECTIVE DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF ROHTAK AND KARNAL DISTRICTS

**\*704. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of villages in Sonapat, Gohana, Rohtak and Panipat Tehsils affected by floods in the last rainy season because of the non-existence of drains or due to defective drainage system ;
- (b) the total area of land in villages of each of the above referred to Tehsils which was affected by such floods and the total damage done to crops ;
- (c) the total area of land which remained uncultivated in these Tehsils for 1948-49 rabi crops on account of stagnation of water in the lands ;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to give relief to the people of flood affected areas ;
- (e) whether Government officials visited village Kheri Isa Pur in Tehsil Gohana, District Rohtak, where the whole culturable land has been under water with the result that Zamindars have had no kharif or rabi crops ;
- (f) whether the Government have given any relief to the people of that village ; if so, how much and, if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (g) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide drainage system for this village so as to get rid of the menace to its crops due to perennial stagnation of water in its area ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Two in Sonapat, twenty-three in Gohana, one in Rohtak and two in Panipat.
- (b) 353 acres in Sonapat; 4,975 in Gohana ; 41 in Rohtak and 28 in Panipat.
- (c) About 200 acres in Gohana Tehsil only.
- (d) Yes. Taccavi loan of Rs. 4,000 in Sonapat Tehsil and remission of water rates for damaged crops all over.
- (e) First Part—Yes.  
Second Part—No. 300 acres only were damaged out of 1,050 sown in kharif, 1948.
- (f) Yes. Remission of water rates to the entire area damaged.
- (g) The matter is under consideration.

**DAMAGE TO CROPS OWING TO LACK OF DRAINS IN  
CERTAIN VILLAGES OF TEHSIL SONEPAT**

**\*705. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received any representations from the villages of Reoli, Fazipur, Shahpur, Raipur, etc., in Sonapat Tehsil to the effect that their kharif crops are seriously damaged every year on account of the overflow of water from the drain which passes near Sonapat ;
- (b) what action, if any, the Government have taken over it ;
- (c) whether the Government have chalked out any scheme, viz., by way of digging new drains, etc., to tackle this standing calamity affecting vast areas of crops and property every year in the above tehsils ;
- (d) whether there is proposal to construct bridges in the near future over drains at suitable places where heavy traffic is blocked ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes. Detailed surveys are in hand.
- (d) No, as bridges already exist at important crossings.

**BEATING OF R.S.S. BOYS AFTER ARREST**

**\*904. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether some cases of police beating of R.S.S. boys after their arrest were brought to the notice

of the Government by Shri Prem Nath and others of Jullundur ; if so, with what result ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

A memorandum, containing allegations of the type, was received by the Government; on enquiries the allegations were found baseless.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know the agency which conducted an enquiry and made its report to the Government ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** The enquiry was made through the district officers.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Minister know that certain excesses committed by the police in Gurdaspur district were brought to the notice of the district authorities there ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. It does not arise out of the answer given.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know what was the nature of the allegations against which an enquiry was made ?

**Minister :** The allegations are mentioned in the memorandum itself.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know if any case of fracture due to the police beating came to the notice of the officers ?

**Minister :** I cannot give any information on that point.

### FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR DETENUS IN JAILS OF THE EAST PUNJAB

**\*906. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the privileges, facilities and concessions allowed to detenues in jails in East Punjab ;
- (b) the number of R.S.S. and the communist detenues respectively ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that annas six for two meals are allowed to a prisoner in the police lock-up ; if so the justification in face of abnormal high prices ;
- (d) whether there is any distinction of political and ordinary (akhlaki) prisoners ; if so, the distinction in treatment ;
- (e) the number of R.S.S. and communist detenues released so far together with the number of such detenues who have given undertaking of good behaviour ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) A copy of the East Punjab Government communique No. 18930-I.B., dated 27th December 1943, is placed on the table ;
- (b) -491 and 206, respectively, on 5th March 1949 ;
- (c) First Part—No.  
Second Part—Does not arise.
- (d) No ; all prisoners are treated alike in accordance with their classification.
- (e) First Part—249 and 123, respectively from 1st April 1948 to 5th March 1949.  
Second Part—78

**PRESS COMMUNIQUE**

Most of the communist detenus in this Province went on hunger strike during the month of October having made a large number of demands such as grant of family and personal allowances, restriction in home districts and more facilities and concessions while under detention. Government made a statement on the floor of the House that these demands could not be considered under the coercion of a hunger strike. As a result of this and of efforts made by prominent Congressmen and non-officials, the communists gave up their hunger strike unconditionally. Government, as promised, have now examined their demands and have decided to give the following concessions :—

- (1) A and B Class detenus will be given a diet allowance of Rs. 2 and Rs. 1.8 each per day respectively and will be allowed to run their own kitchens.
- (2) The quantity of clothing and bedding allowed to A and B Class detenus have been increased considerably. Additional clothing and bedding in the winter months will also be provided.
- (3) Government will, in future, provide A and B Class detenus soap, oil, tooth paste, tooth brush, dattans and shoe polish at Government expense.
- (4) A and B Class detenus will, as at present, be allowed to receive Rs. 20 and Rs. 10 per month respectively as allowance from their relatives. In addition C Class detenus will be allowed to receive Rs. 5 per month from their relatives as an allowance. In special cases the Provincial Government will sympathetically consider the question of permitting detenus to receive a higher allowance.
- (5) Conditions regarding interviews have been liberalised. A and B Class detenus will now be allowed to interview upto 5 persons at one time. In addition if any detenus has no relations to interview him, he will be allowed to give a list of friends. This

list will be examined and persons from the list approved by Government will be allowed to interview the detenu as if they were relatives of the detenu.

- (6) Government will supply one newspaper at Government expense for every 10 detenus. In addition A and B Class detenus will be allowed two dailies, two weeklies and two monthlies each at their own expense. C Class detenus will also be allowed one daily, one weekly and one monthly at their own expense. The number of books which detenus can receive has been increased to 10 for A Class, 6 for B Class and 3 for C Class per month.
- (7) A, B and C Class detenus will be allowed to write three, two and one letters per week respectively. There will be no restrictions on the number of letters they can receive. The form for writing these letters is being re-cast and will now provide much more space than was available in the form in existence at present.
- (8) Detenus will be entitled to medical treatment by the Medical Officer Incharge of the jail and will, on the advice of the Medical Officer, be sent to the District Hospital for treatment. Government, as a rule, will not supply dentures and glasses at Government expense but in special cases, Government is prepared to examine sympathetically the question of supplying glasses at Government expense.
- (9) The request by some detenus that they should be allowed to keep watches has also been agreed to by the Government. Detenus who cannot afford to pay, will be allowed indoor games at Government expense. Their request for shaving facilities has also been agreed to.

These concessions are in addition to the very substantial concessions made in the last few months.

- (10) Government regret that they cannot agree to family allowance as a matter of right but are prepared to examine cases of hardship sympathetically. Detenus wanting such family allowances should apply through the jail authorities giving full reasons in support of their requests.
- (11) The request that they should be detained in their home jails cannot, for obvious administrative reasons, be agreed to. In this province, there are very few jails which are suitable for accommodating detenus.
- (12) The question of setting up machinery to periodically review cases of all detenus is under examination. It may, however, be noted that all cases of detenus are even now periodically reviewed. Government orders in this connection will issue in due course.

The East Punjab Detenus rules were framed after taking into consideration the rules in other parts of India and were more or less, on the same lines. Since the framing of these rules, substantial concessions have been given and with the concessions now given the rules will, in most matters, be more liberal than the rules in other provinces. It will be



obvious that detenus in this Province have no genuine grounds of complaint against the treatment given to them. It is hoped that the public as well as detenus will realise this position.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether the R.S.S. prisoners are on hunger strike as a protest against the ill treatment meted out to them ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** There are certain R.S.S. persons who are on hunger strike ; but repudiate the suggestion that it is due to the ill-treatment towards them. They have gone on hunger strike with a view to make political capital out of it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that one of their demands is that they should be given a better treatment in jail ?

**Minister :** The Government is satisfied that the treatment which is being meted out to the detenus and the prisoners is quite reasonable.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know the number of persons who are on hunger strike and the action the Government has taken in this respect ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The number is given in part (b) of the reply.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Does the hon. Minister know that the C Class diet is so poor that it is not fit for human consumption ?

**Minister :** It is wrong.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Has the hon. Minister ever seen or tasted it ?

**Minister :** Yes I have.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know how many times and on which dates the hon. Minister tasted it ?

**Minister :** This is cross-examination to which I am not prepared to submit.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** When was the diet schedule fixed and can the hon. Minister say how much the prices have risen since ?

**Minister :** The hon. member is confusing the whole thing. There is a distinction between the treatment meted out to the detenus and convicted prisoners. The question of diet money to the detenus was considered only a few months back and the current prices which are not very different from the prices prevailing then were kept in view.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** What sort of diet is given to under-trials in the police lock ups ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The question has been replied.



**Mehta Ranbir Singh :** May I know if it is a fact that the Communist detenus and convicts are getting better facilities and treatment than the R. S. S. detenus and convicts ?

**Minister :** All the detenus, whether they are Communists or R.S.S. or belonging to any other category are being treated alike. So far as prisoners are concerned, as far as memory goes, there are no Communist prisoners; therefore, I cannot draw any analogies.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** It is a fact that some people are on hunger strike; can the hon. Minister tell the House the number of such persons and the time since when they are on hunger strike ?

**Minister :** I can give the detailed information to the House if the hon. Member gives notice of a question.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that there are about 150 R. S. S. prisoners who are on hunger strike for the last 18 days ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I have already attempted to reply to this question which my hon. friend has put in a different form.

### COMPLAINTS AGAINST CONSTABLES OF BHIWANI POLICE STATION

**\*907. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that a very serious complaint against a few constables of Bhiwani Police Station was lodged with the Superintendent Police of the District by Shri R. D. Saxena, B.A., LL.B., in the last week of January, 1949; if so, to what result;
- (b) whether the complaint was enquired into and if found true, what action has been taken against the Police Constables involved ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) Yes.

(b) First Part—Yes.

Second Part—As the Constable could not be sent up for trial in a court of law for want of sufficient proof, he was discharged from service and the Head Constable reverted as Constable.

RE-INSTATEMENT IN SERVICE OF S. JAGIR SINGH  
ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR POLICE, MOGA

\*977. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that S. Jagir Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector Police of P. S. Moga, District Ferozepur, was prosecuted in the Court of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Moga, during the second half of 1946 under section 342/325 of Indian Penal Code ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid trying court found him guilty and sentenced him to pay Rs. one hundred as fine in 1947 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that on appeal his sentence was enhanced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment by the Sessions Judge, Ferozepur, in addition to the fine already imposed by the lower convicting court ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the revision petition of the accused was also rejected by the High Court of Judicature at Simla ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the convict presented a mercy petition after the rejection of his revision petition ; if so when ;
- (f) whether it is also a fact that before sending him to jail, the Government remitted the whole of his sentence and re-instated him on his post of Assistant Sub-Inspector Police ; if so the reasons for the same ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh** :

- (a) Yes, under section 323 I. P. C. and not 342/325.
- (b) Yes, in 1946 and <sup>not</sup> 1947.
- (c) The Sessions Judge referred the case to the High Court for enhancement of the punishment under section 438, Criminal Procedure Code.
- (d) The High Court, East Punjab, enhanced the sentence to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100.
- (e) Yes, on 9th May, 1948.
- (f) The sentence of 6 months' rigorous imprisonment was remitted by the Governor of East Punjab in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Departmental action in the case is under consideration.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I know whether Government took due notice of Police Rule 16. 2, sub para (2) which runs as follows :— An enrolled police officer sentenced judicially to a rigorous imprisonment exceeding one month should, if such sentence is not quashed on appeal or revision, be dismissed. If so why was he reinstated ?

**Minister :** He is no longer in service. The question is therefore purely academic.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** I admit that he is not in service at present, but when he was reinstated, I would like to know under what rule his reinstatement was effected ?

**Minister :** Departmental action against him was under consideration at that time and no final decision had been taken about his reinstatement.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Is it not a fact that after his acquittal and subsequent reinstatement, he was first posted at Jhabbal and then at Adampur ?

**Minister :** I have already said that at that time no final decision or departmental action had been taken against him; therefore posting to this or that police station was only tentative pending departmental action.

#### OBSTRUCTION IN THE REPAIRS OF CANAL OUTLETS IN VILLAGE DAUDPURA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

\*978. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the 9th October 1948, canal outlet D. L. 6213, Bullianwala minor of village Daudpura, subtehsil Patti, district Amritsar was found enlarged, dismantled and its pipe was removed away by the S. D. O. Canals, Tarn Taran;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that on 9th Oct. 1948 canal outlet D. R. 23996 Khem Karan Distributary of village Daudpura was found damaged and its A. P. M. removed away by the S. D. O. Canals, Tarn Taran;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the S. D. O. wired to Zilladar Waltoha and the Overseer to repair the aforesaid outlets;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Canal Overseer Waltoha went with his men and material to repair the aforesaid outlets on the 5th November 1948 but certain persons of village Daudpura appeared on the spot with loaded arms and did not allow the Overseer to do his duty;

- (e) whether it is a fact that the said Overseer had to leave his repair work incomplete and intimated the whole story to his senior officers;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the higher canal authorities wired to Deputy Superintendent of Police, Patti to help the Overseer, in the performance of his above referred to official duty on or about the 5th November, 1948.
- (g) whether it is a fact that on the 16th of November, 1948 under orders of the higher district police authorities, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, three police constables of Police Station Waltoha, district Amritsar, were deputed to help the said Overseer, in the repair work of the aforesaid canal outlets ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that they reached the spot and took up the repairs of the aforesaid outlets ;
- (i) whether it is a fact that when they were busy in the repair work, some of the shareholders of these outlets who were residents of village Daudpura came over to the spot with loaded rifles and stopped the Canal Overseer and his men from doing their repair works in the presence of the police ;
- (j) whether it is a fact that this time too the repair work was left incomplete owing to the interference mentioned above ;
- (k) if the answers to all the aforesaid parts of this question be in the affirmative, whether any case was registered against the persons who obstructed the Government employees from doing their duties ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (l) whether any action was taken against the Assistant Sub-Inspector Police, Waltoha, for his failure to help the canal men to do their job ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (m) whether the Deputy Superintendent Police, incharge of Patti sub-tehsil, submitted any report to his senior district officers against the persons who caused obstructions mentioned above and were responsible for many other acts of lawlessness in the ilaqa ; if so, what action, if any has been taken by the district authorities in the matter ;
- (n) whether the district authorities submitted the report to the Government ; if so, what orders, if any, have been passed by the Government in the matter ;

- (o) whether it is a fact that an ex-M. L. A. and his two sons and his other party men were responsible for the obstruction referred to above ;
- (p) whether it is also a fact that this ex-M. L. A. is very closely associated with some of the highly placed Government officers and Ministers in the Province ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) First part, yes ; second part, No.
- (b) First part, yes, on 23-10-48 and not on 9-10-48 ; second part, No.
- (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) Yes.
- (i) No. Some villagers, one of whom was armed with his licenced gun, approached the party and requested them not to interfere with the outlet as they were approaching the higher authorities in the matter.
- (j) Yes.
- (k) No, as no cognizable offence was made out.
- (l) No, as no action was called for against the A. S. I.
- (m) Yes ; a report was sent to the District Magistrate through the Sr. S. P., Amritsar, but no legal action could be taken on the facts.
- (n) No orders by Government were necessary
- (o) No.
- (p) No.

#### DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SUSPENDED ON THE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION

**\*979. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number and names of the Deputy Superintendents of Police who were suspended by the Government on charges of corruption during the year 1948 ;
- (b) the period for which each of them remained under suspension ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some of them were re-instated to their posts without any judicial or departmental enquiries in respect of the charges levelled against them ; if so, the names of such Deputy Superintendents of Police together with the reasons for not taking any action in their case ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) Nil.

(b) and [c] Do not arise.

### GARDAURI WORK IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

\*990. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the period fixed for carrying out the Gardauri work in Amritsar district under the rules ;
- (b) the period fixed by the Revenue authorities of Amritsar district for carrying out the Gardauri work during the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 ;
- (c) the maximum number of Khasras a Revenue Patwari is required to inspect, and make entries thereof in the Khasra Gardauri book per day during Gardauri period ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that at the time of the Rabi Garduari, 1948, the Revenue Patwaris of Amritsar district were called upon to finish their Gardauri work within the period from 1st March 1948 to 15th March 1948 ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that owing to constant rains, the said Patwaris could not commence with their work from 1st March 1948 to 10th March 1948 and consequently worked for 5 days only for this purpose ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the Patwaris were ordered to be present at Tehsil Headquarters on 16th March 1948 ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that the Revenue Patwaris remained at the Tehsil Headquarters from 16th March 1948 to 8th November 1948 ;
- (h) whether the Revenue Patwaris were able to finish their Gardauri work within five days and inspect about five thousand Khasra numbers in their circle ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) Rabi—1st to 31st March

Kharif—1st to 31st October

(b)

(1) 1946-47

Kharif

Rabi

{ 1-10-46  
to  
31-10-46

{ 1-3-47  
to  
31-3-47



(2) 1947-48	{ 1-10-47	1-3-48
	to	to
	{ 31-10-47	31-3-48
(3) 1948-49	{ 16-10-48	1-3-49
	to	to
	{ 15-11-48	20-3-49

- (c) 143 Khasra numbers per day.  
 (d) Yes.  
 (e) No.  
 (f) and (g) Yes.  
 (h) In view of (e) above, does not arise.

### COMMUNIST DETENUS IN FEROZPUR LOCK-UP

\*998. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- whether it is a fact that Baba Nidhan Singh, S. Bhoor-bhajindar Singh, S. Atma Singh, and S. Basant Singh, communist detenues, were transferred from jail to the police lock-up, Ferozepore Police Cantt., a few weeks ago ;
- the date on which the transfer was made and the reasons therefor ;
- whether it is a fact that at the time of their transfer they were being treated as political detenues, class II ;
- whether it is a fact that during their stay in the aforesaid police lock-up they were allowed morning and evening walks within the police station premises but outside the police lock-up; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- the period for which each of the detenues remained in the aforesaid-lock up ;
- whether it is a fact that they were allowed to take bath outside the police lock up ;
- whether it is a fact that they were allowed to answer the call of nature in the police latrines outside the lock-up ; if not, whether they were made to answer the call of nature inside the lock-up in the usual earthen pot ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- whether they were allowed to wash their clothes themselves during their stay in the aforesaid lock-up and necessary washing material was supplied to them for the purpose;

if so, who bore the expenses ; if not, the arrangements that were made by the authorities for washing of their clothes ;

- (i) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid detenus submitted a representation to the Government regarding their grievances before 12-2-49 ;
- (j) whether it is a fact that they resorted to hunger strike on or about 12th February 1949 ;
- (k) the period for which they remained on hunger strike ;
- (l) the reasons for taking this step by the detenus ;
- (m) the steps taken by the authorities to end the above referred to hunger strike ;
- (n) the total number of visits made by the medical officer to the police lock-up during their stay at Ferozpur Cantt. for medical treatment or advice ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) First two on 12-1-49, third on 20th and the last on 21st for purposes of interrogation.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes ; for exercise as an amenity.
- (e) Bhoorbhajinder Singh and Nidhan Singh for one month and 13 days each, Atma Singh for one month and 5 days and Basant Singh for one month and 4 days.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) First part—Yes.  
Second part—does not arise.
- (h) First part—Yes.  
Second part—At Government expense.  
Third part—Does not arise.
- (i) No.
- (j) No.
- (k) (l) and (m) Do not arise.
- (n) None, as ordinarily ailing prisoners are taken to hospital for treatment.

**Chaudhari Suraj Mal :** This again is a very lengthy question.

**Mr. Speaker :** In this connection I would like to ask the hon. Members to refrain from putting lengthy questions in future, because such questions give information instead of seeking it.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the detenu who is stated to be on parole by the hon. Minister for the last three months, is in Ambala Central Jail and that when he went to Hoshiarpur on the 23rd March, he was arrested and imprisoned ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** In view of the information disclosed by the hon. Member, I will make enquiries.

#### COMMUNIST DETENUS OVER 75 YEARS OF AGE

\*1062. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the Communist detenus are over 75 years of age ;
- (b) whether the Government has taken into consideration their old age while ordering their detention ;
- (c) how long are these old men going to be kept under detention ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes ; one.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) So long as it is considered necessary in the interest of public safety and the maintenance of public order.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether Government has fixed any standard with regard to 'the safety and maintenance of public order' in view of the fact that certain communist detenus are 80 years old and being almost devoid of eyesight and unable to walk even, are incapable of doing any mischief ?

**Minister :** This a general argument ?

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the detenu whose name has particularly been mentioned in the reply, is so infirm and aged that he is unable to see or walk and the doctor too has attested to that effect ? If so, is the Government prepared to consider his case favourably particularly when he is incapable of doing any mischief ?

**Minister :** I fail to understand as to what particular detenu the hon. Member is referring to. In the main question there is no such reference.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that Lal Singh, a detenu in the Yole Camp, sent a representation to the Government duly attested by the Medical Officer that he is too old to disturb the safety or public order? If so, is he prepared to consider his case sympathetically?

**Minister :** His case will be looked into, if the hon. Member gives notice. Again, if the information disclosed by him is correct, I don't see much objection to the considering of relief being granted to him.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Previously the hon. Minister held out such promises. May I know whether he has ever looked into any case?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is too general a question.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether our popular Government is too much afraid of these 75 or 80 years' old people?

**Minister :** Government is not afraid of anybody but whatever action it takes in a matter, it does so for the benefit of the public.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** May I know what public good is being achieved by incarcerating people who are too old to move out even?

**Minister :** The difficulty is that people do not care to understand the benefit they receive.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** The hon. Minister promised to look into the matter in detail. May I know whether he has done so?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a general question.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** Is the Government afraid of persons of 70 and 80 years of age and that is why they have been kept behind the bars?

**Minister :** Government is not afraid of anybody. Everything is done in the public interest.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** What is the public interest in keeping old men of 75 or 80 years under detention?

**Minister :** Unfortunately, some people do not understand.

#### ILLNESS OF S. HARNAM SINGH, A COMMUNIST DETENUE

\*1063. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that S. Harnam Singh, a communist detenu, is suffering from serious skin disease ;

- (b) the arrangements Government has made for his treatment ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) There are three Communist detenus by the name of Harnam Singh and none of them is suffering from any skin disease.

- (b) Does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that on the 18th February 1949, a representation was made through the Ambala Central Jail that Sardar Harnam Singh was suffering from a skin disease and the hon. Minister said that he would look into the matter ?

**Minister :** I have looked into the matter and given a reply.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that along with the representation a certificate from the Medical Officer, Ambala Jail, to the effect that Sardar Harnam Singh was suffering from a skin disease was attached ?

**Minister :** I do not recollect whether or not there was any medical certificate and if there was one, it must have been sent to the jail authorities. I never removed it.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the Tribunal that has been set up under the Safety Act examine these cases ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### TRIBUNAL TO REVIEW THE CASES OF COMMUNIST DETENUS

\*1064. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Tribunal has been set up to review the cases of the Communist detenus ;
- (b) the number of cases that have been reviewed so far by this Tribunal ;
- (c) the number of Communist detenus that have been released as a result thereof ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

(a) An Advisory Committee has been appointed to review eth cases of all detenus.

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

(b) 198 including 182 R. S. S. cases.

(c) One.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know who are the members of the Advisory Committee ?

**Minister :** Two retired Sessions Judges.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know their names ?

**Minister :** Names are not material.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister said that two hon. Members of this House would also be taken as members of the Advisory Committee during discussion of the Safety Bill on the floor of this House ?

**Minister :** So far as this particular matter is concerned, I think the memory of my hon. Friend has failed him. I do not recollect having made any such commitment. It will, as a matter of fact, be unfair if any hon. Member were asked to work on this Committee which is purely executive in its scope.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How many cases for release have been recommended by this Committee ?

**Minister :** I am afraid the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are not public property.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that out of 80 persons recommended by this committee for release only one has been set free?

**Minister :** I have already stated that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are not public property and by committing one way or the other I will be divulging something which, I am under the rules, not authorised to do.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether Government generally accepts the recommendations of this committee ?

**Minister :** Yes. Generally the recommendations of the committee are accepted.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that only 5% of the recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the Government ?

**Minister :** That is wrong.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What is the percentage then ?



**Minister :** It is a subject about which I am not prepared to give any information as it will be unfair both to the Advisory Committee and to the detenus to divulge information regarding the contents of those recommendations.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the Government has more confidence in their C. I. D. than in this Committee ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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### DETENUS

\*1068. **Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of (i) Communists (ii) R. S. S. workers and (iii) bad characters, respectively, detained under the Public Safety Act during the period from 10-4-48 to 10-3-49 ;
- (b) the number of detenus who were given class I, class II and class III treatment respectively ;
- (c) the period for which the bad character detenus were kept in police or jail custody during the period referred to above together with the number of such bad character detenus at present ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) (i) 339, (ii) 1019 and (iii) 152.
- (b) 27, 1330 and 153.
- (c) Eight for six months, 1 for 2 months, 136 for 1 month, 4 for 15 days, 1 for 9 days and 2 for 3 days. There is none now.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** Is it a fact that the number of bad characters is far greater than that of Communists or R. S. S. workers ; and if so, why have all the bad characters not been arrested ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an expression of opinion. Disallowed.

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### FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO COMMUNIST DETENUS

\*1069. **Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

[Pandit Mohan Lal]

- (a) the number of Communist detenus who applied for the grant of family allowance up till 28-2-49 ;
- (b) number of applications granted;
- (c) the number of applications still pending with the Government ;
- (d) the maximum and minimum family allowance granted to a single detenu so far together with the total amount of family allowances granted so far ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) 71.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 60.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Is it a fact that the Government promised to consider the applications liberally and grant family allowances ?

**Minister :** Yes and I still abide by that undertaking.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** How many applications were received and in how many cases have the allowances been sanctioned ?

**Minister :** The matter is under consideration and will be decided before long.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** What is meant by 'before long' ? Is it 6, 8 or 10 months or a year ?

**Minister :** The hon. Member need not have that despair.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Our past experience is like that. Is it a fact that in a number of applications it has been stated that the families have nothing to eat and those applications have been endorsed by responsible persons ?

**Minister :** I am afraid the contents of the various applications cannot be given by me off-hand. In all cases where compensation is asked for, circumstances are generally disclosed which indicate that there are cases where Government should grant compensation. All those cases have to be gone into and certain reports are necessary before decisions are taken.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Does the hon. Minister remember that I gave about 15 to 20 applications to him where I told the hon. Minister that I had verified the facts by going to their houses and they deserved most sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government ?

**Minister :** I do not remember of his having brought to my notice such applications. If, however, the hon. Member sends to me those applications duly attested by him, I shall consider them.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I myself gave 4 or 5 applications to the hon. Minister. I would like to know what action has been taken on them ?

**Minister :** It is covered by the reply that I have already given.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** On what basis is the family allowance given ?

**Minister :** The requirements of the family, their status, their financial position, all these factors are taken into consideration.

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#### KISAN WORKERS DETENUS OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT PLACED IN 'C' CLASS

\*1070. **Pandit Mohan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that three kisan workers of Tehsil Una, District Hoshiarpur, namely (1) Sardar Sarwan Singh (2) Pandit Thakur Dass, (3) Chaudhri Ram Rakha are detained in Hissar Jail under the Public Safety Act ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that they are treated as ordinary 'C' Class prisoners ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Pandit Thakur Dass is a Matric and Sardar Sarwan Singh is a released military clerk and is also a Matric ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the above referred to detenues were on hunger strike as a protest against their being placed in 'C' Class ;
- (e) if the answers to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No, they are now in 'B' Class.
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No action is required, as the detenus in question have already been placed in 'B' Class.

**Pandit Mohan Lal :** May I know since when they are in 'B' class ?

**Minister :** I do not remember the date.

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OFFICE ACCOMMODATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
GENERAL AND OFFICIAL TRUSTEE, EAST PUNJAB

\*1073. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the office of the Administrator General and Official Trustee, East Punjab is located in the same building which is occupied by this officer as his residence ;
- (b) how many rooms in this house are being used for the office and how many for the private use of this officer ;
- (c) what is the proportion of rent which the Government is bearing ;
- (d) whether it is proposed to shift the office to some official building ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Four front rooms and one verandah for office and six rooms for residence.
- (c) Rs. 41-4-0 p.m. for the office and Rs. 47 for the residence.
- (d) No.

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LAND REVENUE FOR LANDS ACQUIRED BY  
THE GOVERNMENT

\*1078. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the date on which the survey of the lands of village Gobindpuri, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Ambala, was completed ;
- (b) the date on which the acquisition of these lands was completed ;

- (c) the date on which the possession of these lands was taken by the Public Works Department ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the owners of these lands are still paying the land revenue for the lands ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) The information is not readily available.

(b) The lands in question were not acquired but requisitioned on the 29th March, 1948 and the 7th June 1948.

(c) 1st April, 1948 and the 15th June 1948, respectively.

(d) The land revenue is still recoverable from the owners but they have not yet paid it. They will, however, be entitled to receive the rent of the requisitioned lands.

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#### GRANT OF LICENCES FOR FIREARMS IN AMBALA DISTRICT

\*1081. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names and addresses of persons, tehsil-wise, who have been granted licences of fire-arms together with a mention of the kind of arm, in Ambala District, during the period 15th August 1947 to 15th October 1948 ;
- (b) the names and addresses of persons, tehsil-wise, who have been granted licences of fire-arms together with a mention of the kind of arm, in Ambala District from 15th October 1948 to 15th March 1949 ;
- (c) the names and addresses of persons, tehsil-wise, who, held licences of fire-arms together with a mention of the kind of arm in Ambala District before 15th August 1947 ;
- (d) the total number of applications for the grant of licences of fire-arms together with a mention of the kind of arm, received by the District Magistrate, Ambala, from 15th August 1947 to 15th March 1949 ;
- (e) the number of applications which have been sanctioned together with the number of those which have been rejected by the District Magistrate, Ambala ;
- (f) the necessary qualifications that are required for securing a licence of fire-arm ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) and (b) : It is regretted that the time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained. The District Magistrates have, however, been very liberal in the matter of the grant of licences for arms.

(c) to (f) Licences are granted by District Magistrates at their discretion to suitable persons, and no qualifications have been laid down.

#### THEFTS IN FATEHGARH CHURIAN, DISTRICT GURDASPUR

\*1089. **Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the cloth dealers of Fatehgarh Churian, District Gurdaspur, struck work for some days in the month of February in order to draw the attention of the authorities to the fact that some of the shops had been broken in by the thieves ; if so, what action, if any, has been or proposed to be taken in this matter ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :**

First part—Yes.

Second part—The cases are being investigated by the Criminal Intelligence Agency.

#### CUTS IN THE LANDS TO BE ALLOTTED TO REFUGEE LANDHOLDERS

\*1088. **Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

- (a) what decisions if any have been made by the Rehabilitation Board of the East Punjab Government in connection with the cuts to be made in the lands to be allotted to the refugee landholders out of the areas they have left in Pakistan ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make any Government Agricultural and Horticultural Farms on the lands left by Mohammadan evacuees in the East Punjab ; if so, the extent and the situation of areas of lands which are likely to be utilized for the purpose ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allot any land in the permanent allotment to any person who has left no land in Pakistan ; if so, the area of land likely to be reserved for the purpose ?



**The hon. Sardar Partap Singh :** (a) The Provincial Rehabilitation Board (Rural) recommended the following scheme of graded cuts in terms of standard acres :—

5 acres or less	25%
More than 5 acres but not more than 10 acres	25%
More than 10 acres but not more than 30 acres	30%
More than 30 acres but not more than 60 acres	45%
More than 60 acres but not more than 150 acres	65%
More than 150 acres but not more than 250 acres	75%
More than 250 acres but not more than 500 acres	80%
More than 500 acres but not more than 2,000 acres	90%
More than 2,000 acres.	95%

(b) 10,000 acres of culturable waste land in Karnal District and 3,592 acres of evacuee land have been reserved for seed farms in East Punjab. The location of the cultivated land is as follows :—

Distt.	Tehsil	Village	Area
Karnal	Karnal	Jundla	1,000
Amritsar	Amritsar	Khalchian	1,000
Gurdaspur	Pathankot	Jamalpur	495
Hissar	Sirsa	Patti Shamsabad	1,097
			<hr/> 3,592

(c) No.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I find that the statement read out now is a bit different from the statement prepared and approved by the Board at its meeting in Jullundur; may I know how much more changes can be expected till the time of permanent allotments?

**Minister :** I have read the same statement which was passed at the meeting of the Board at Jullundur and of which Shrimati Sita Devi was a member.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I want to know the changes that are likely to be made till the time permanent allotments are made?

**Minister :** This is the graded cut which was proposed and approved by the Board.

#### THEOG-KOT KHAI ROAD

\*1077. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Rs. 50,000 were provided for expenditure in connection with the alignment of the Theog-Kot Khai Road in the Budget for 1948-49 ;

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

- (b) whether this amount or a portion thereof has been utilised for the purpose referred to above; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Sher Singh): (a) No provision has been made in the Budget for 1948-49;

- (b) Does not arise.

### ESTABLISHMENT STAFF OF THE REGIONAL RATIONING AND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY AMBALA.

\*1086. **Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur**: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the members of the Establishment Staff employed in the Regional Rationing and Transport Authority, Ambala, together with the post held by each one of them;
- (b) the date on which each member of the Senior and Junior Establishment Staff referred to above, including the Assistant Secretary, was recruited and joined this office;
- (c) whether it is a fact that any member of the Establishment Staff, including the Assistant Secretary, is a resident of the Ambala City;
- (d) whether it is a fact that any member of the Establishment Staff, including the Assistant Secretary, has been working in this office for more than three years; if so, the total period of his service in that office and the reasons for not transferring him to some other place;
- (e) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Sher Singh):

- (a) *Regional Rationing Authority and Regional Transport Authority, Ambala.*

Name	Post held
1. Capt. G. R. Mohindru	... Secretary, Regional Rationing & Transport Authority, Ambala.
2. Shri Roshan Lal	... Assistant Secretary, Regional Rationing & Transport Authority.
3. Shri Bhim Sen	... Senior Clerk (Petrol Rationing).
4. S. Joginder Singh	... Junior Clerk       "       "
5. S. Sewa Singh	...       "       "       "       "

6.	Shri Partap Singh	...	Senior Clerk (Transport)
7.	Shri Jugal Kishore	...	Junior Clerk „
8.	S. Sajjan Singh	...	„ „ „
9.	S. Amar Singh	...	„ „ „
10.	Shri Satish Chander	...	„ „ „

(b) *Regional Rationing and Transport Authority, Ambala*

	Name	Date of recruitment	Date of joining Ambala Office
1.	Capt. G. R. Mohindra	30-9-48	30-9-48
2.	Shri Roshan Lal	12-9-42	12-9-42
3.	Shri Bhim Sen	13-8-45	13-8-45
4.	S. Joginder Singh	1-9-42	13-10-47
5.	S. Sewa Singh	1-2-49	1-2-49
6.	S. Partap Singh	10-3-45	12-2-49
7.	Shri Jugal Kishore	2-6-44	23-10-47
8.	S. Sajjan Singh	10-1-47	10-1-47
9.	S. Amar Singh	14-2-49	14-2-49
10.	Shri Satish Chander	10-2-49	1-3-49

(c) Yes, the following officials belong to Ambala proper or Ambala District :—

1.	Shri Roshan Lal	Assistant Secretary	Ambala City
2.	S. Sajjan Singh	Junior Clerk	Ambala City
3.	S. Amar Singh	Junior Clerk	Ambala City
4.	S. Sewa Singh	Junior Clerk	Barara (Distt. Ambala)

(d) Yes, Shri Roshan Lal, Assistant Secretary, and Shri Bhim Sen, (Senior Clerk), are working in the Ambala Region for a period exceeding 3 years. The total period of Service of both these officials in Ambala Region is given below :

	Name.	Year	Month
1.	Shri Roshan Lal Assistant Secretary	6	6 (Approximately)
2.	Shri Bhim Sen, Senior Clerk	3	7 „

Office is not in a position to account for their non-transfers during the period prior to partition of the Punjab. Shri Roshan Lal, Assistant Secretary, was promoted as Assistant in Provincial Transport Controller's Office and transferred to Jullundur in September 1948 but the Chairman, Regional Transport Authority, Ambala recommended his retention in the Ambala Region, in the

[Parliamentary Secretary]

interest of Government work. Later on he was promoted as Assistant Secretary, Regional Transport and Rationing Authority, Ambala. It has, however, not been considered advisable to reshuffle the experienced subordinate staff.

(e) Reshuffling of the staff will be considered as and when deemed necessary in the interest of Government work.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that Shri Roshan Lal has been in Ambala for the last six years and six months and Shri Bhim Sen for three years and seven months ; may I know why, when ordinarily people are transferred after three years, these gentlemen have remained at the same place for such a long time ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied to this question.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** In reply it is said that they were not transferred in the interest of Government work ; may I ask if there was no Government work for them at any other place, say, Jullundur ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are experienced persons and thoroughly understand the work which they are doing at Ambala and for this reason their transfer was not considered necessary.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Does it mean that it is the considered policy of the Government, that only inexperienced and inefficient persons are to be transferred.

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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#### GRANT OF ADDITIONAL PETROL TO THE UNIVERSAL BUS SERVICE, LTD., AMBALA.

\*1087. **Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the motor transport companies plying on various routes in the Ambala District ;
- (b) the quantity of the basic petrol to which each of the aforesaid companies were entitled in the last quarter of 1948 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Samundri Transport Co., Ltd. and the Universal Bus Service, Ltd., ply their vehicles on one and the same route ; if so, the number of their

- trips over the joint routes allotted to them respectively ;
- (d) whether any additional petrol above their basic petrol was sanctioned and given in the month of October 1948 to the Universal Bus service Ltd., if so, the quantity given together with the reasons thereof ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that no additional petrol was given to the Samundri Transport Co., Ltd., in addition to their basic quota in October, 1948 for the trips in accordance with the ratio of their trips with the Universal Bus Service Ltd., if so, the reasons for the same ;
- (f) whether any representation by the Managing Director of the Samundri Transport Co., Ltd., Ambala, was personally handed over to the Secretary, Provincial Rationing Authority, Simla, in the month of November 1948 against this discrimination ; if so, the date on which it was presented ;
- (g) whether any enquiry was made on this complaint of the Managing Directors of the Samundri Transport Co., Ltd ; if so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Sher Singh) :**

(a) The following companies with the routes shown against them ply their services on various routes in Ambala District :

Name of the Company.	Routes.
1. The Universal Bus Service Ltd., Ambala.	Ambala-Kalka. Ambala-Shahzadpur. Ambala-Naraingarh. Ambala-Nahan. Ambala-Pehowa.
2. The New Samundari Transport Co., Ambala.	Ambala-Kalka. Ambala-Shahzadpur. Ambala-Naraingarh. Ambala-Nahan. Ambala-Pehowa. Ambala-Jagadhari.
3. The Ambala Bus Syndicate Ltd., Co., Rupar.	Ambala-Rupar. Rupar-Kalka. Rupar-Guzarnangal. Guzarnangal-Anandpur. Rupar-Bilaspur.
4. The Sadhaura Transport Co., Sadhaura.	Sadhaura-Barara, Barara-Nahan.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

5. The Himalaya Transport Syndicate Ltd., Kalka. Kalka-Simla.  
Kalka-Kasauli.
6. The Simla Hills Transport Service Ltd., Kalka. Kalka-Simla.  
Kalka-Kasauli.  
Dharmpur-Sabathu.  
Kalka-Simla-Dagshai.

(b) Name of the company	Petrol basic quota to which entitled
1. Universal Bus Service Ltd., Ambala	3989 gallons
2. The New Samundari Transport Co., Ltd., Ambala.	8569 gallons
3. Ambala Bus Syndicate Ltd., Rupar	12544 gallons.
4. Himalaya Transport Service Ltd., Kalka	5824 gallons
5. Simla Hills Transport Service, Ltd., Kalka	7112 gallons
6. Sadhaura Transport Co., Sadhaura	2634 gallons

(c) Yes M/s Samundari Transport Co. Ltd. and Universal Bus Service Ltd., ply their services on the same routes with the exception that Ambala-Jagadhari route is being plied by New Samundari Transport Co., in addition. The number of daily return trips allotted over the common routes to both the companies are as follows :—

Name of the Common route.	No. of trips of Samundari Transport Company.	No. of Trips of Universal Bus Service Ltd.,
1. Ambala-Kalka	4	3
2. Ambala-Naraingarh	2½	1½
3. Ambala-Shahzadpur	2	1
4. Ambala-Nahan	2	1
5. Ambala-Pehowa (Gas Plant)	1	1

(d) No additional petrol over and above the basic quota was sanctioned and issued in the month of October, 1948, to Messrs. Universal Bus Service Ltd., Ambala. However, on their representation dated 31-7-48, only the 50% cut, imposed on basic petrol quota due to shortage of petrol was restored which resulted in the issue of 525 gallons of petrol to this Company on the Ambala Shahzadpur and Ambala-Nahan routes of this Company where only one daily return trip existed, as it was not possible for the company, with 50% cut on its basic ration, to ply on these routes regularly.

(e) 50% cut on basic petrol quota was not restored in respect of Messrs. Samundari Transport Co., Ltd., as on none of their



routes, on daily return trip existed which was likely to be affected adversely.

(f) Yes on 29-10-1948.

(g) Yes, the complaint was enquired into. The restoration of cut imposed on petrol quota in respect of the Universal Bus Service on the routes where only one return trip existed and refusal of the same by the Regional Transport Authority, Ambala in relation to the Samundari Transport Company Ltd., on the same routes where more than one trip existed, was found justified.

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### SENIORITY GIVEN TO WAR SERVICE MEN IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT

\*910. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government had decided in June 1948 to give seniority to war service men in the Civil Secretariat, Simla ; if so, whether effect has been given to this decision ; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :**

Orders regarding concessions to war service men in the matter of seniority were issued by Government in October 1948. The case of the fixation of the seniority of war service employees in the Civil Secretariat is under active consideration and final orders are likely to be passed shortly. It was not possible to give effect to the orders of Government earlier as the matter is not free from difficulties. There are about 80 war service employees in the Civil Secretariat and the records of some of them are not complete. Moreover, there are about six hundred employees belonging to the superior establishment in the Civil Secretariat and the fixation of the seniority of the war service men vis-a-vis such a large number of employees is not an easy job.

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### COMPLAINT AGAINST CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, GURGAON

\*911. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether he received a serious complaint against the Civil Supplies Department in Gurgaon District some four months back from Rughan Lal of Messrs. Shri Hari Sahai Mal Lakhmi Mal Cloth Merchants, Rewari ; if so, to what effect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

Yes. A complaint was received from Shri Rughan Lal regarding delay in granting him a wholesale licence. The matter was looked into and the licence was granted.

**Shrimati Sita Devi** : Is the hon. Parliamentary Secretary aware that the Civil Supplies Officer at Amritsar was a doctor in a Veterinary Hospital ?

**Mr. Speaker** : The question relates to Rewari, District Gurgaon.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : It does not arise out of the question.

PROCEDURE REGARDING PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SIMLA

\*913. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) the proportion between the directly recruited and promoted from the Department in the appointment of Assistants, Senior Clerks and other Cadres in the Civil Secretariat, Simla ;
- (b) whether it has been decided to hold a test at the time of promotion to a higher cadre ;
- (c) whether this is against the previous practice followed in the Secretariat ;
- (d) whether there is any decision of the previous Government on this issue ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) Yes ; a test for promotion from the post of senior clerks to the post of Assistants is held before senior clerks are promoted to the Assistants' grade. The duties of junior and senior clerks are of a routine nature whereas those of Assistants are of an important nature. It has, therefore, been decided to hold a test for promotion from the senior clerks to the Assistants grade to enable Government to judge their ability for the post of Assistants. Their seniority and personal files are however, the guiding factors.

(c) Yes ; in the Joint Punjab, however, a test was held or those senior clerks who had got promotion from amongst Restorers first as junior clerks and then as senior clerks and these senior clerks were not promoted as Assistants unless they passed the test.

(d) It is not possible to give definite information on this point as there may be some papers in the West Punjab.

Name of the Post.	Direct recruits	Officials promoted
1. Assistants	7.3%	92.7%
2. Senior Clerks	15.5%	84.5%
3. Senior Translators	50%	50%
4. Senior Scale Stenographers	8.3%	91.7%
5. Junior Clerks	98.5%	1.5%
6. Junior Translators	100%	...
7. Junior Scale Stenographers	90%	10%
8. Restorers	25%	75%
9. Record Lifters	20%	80%
10. Daftris	30%	70%
11. Jamadars	12.5%	87.5%

#### ATTACKS BY PAKISTANIS ON TERRITORIES WITHIN THE INDIAN DOMINION

**\*1020. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of attacks made by the Pakistanis on the territory within the jurisdiction of Patti sub-tehsil of Amritsar district between the period 1st April 1948, to 28th February 1949 ;
- (b) the number of persons forcibly removed by Pakistanis from the territory referred to in part (a) above during the aforesaid period ;
- (c) the number of persons who have since been received back from Pakistan ;
- (d) the number and the names with addresses of Government employees and the other members of public injured during the aforesaid period as a result of these attacks, respectively ;
- (e) the number and the names with addresses of Government employees and other members of public who died during this period on account of these attacks ;
- (f) whether any financial help has been given by the Government to the persons or their families mentioned in parts (d) and (e) above ; if so, the nature of such help awarded in each case ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that this help has been given to Government servants only ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh.**

(a) 81

(b) 15

[Minister for Home and Revenue]

(c) 5.

(d) Government servants—5, namely :—

F. C. Bhim Singh No. 1602

F. C. Maluk Singh No. 2783

F. C. Goggan Ram No. 4040

F. C. Kashmira Singh No. 1801, of P. A. P. and  
Kundan Singh Platoon Commander N. V. C. of  
Amritsar District.

Members of public—16, namely :—

1. Janga Singh s/o Fauja Singh of Wah, P. S. Khalra.
2. Karnail Singh s/o Narain Singh, Jat, of Wah. P. S. Khalra.
3. Dalip Singh s/o Wasakha Singh, Jat, of Rajoke.
4. Pritam Singh s/o Fauja Singh, Mazhabi of Dall.
5. Must. Jeo w/o Nihal Singh, Mazhabi, of Kamboke.
6. Sohan Singh s/o Surain Singh, Jat of Khalra.
7. Kundan Singh s/o Dalip Singh, Jat of Khalra.
8. Ranga Singh s/o Fauja Singh, Jat of Manawa.
9. Tara Singh s/o Saudagar Singh, Jat of Dholan.
10. Tirlok Singh s/o Udham Singh, Jat of Manawan  
Jaimal Singh.
11. Shabeg Singh s/o Gehna Singh, Jat, of Thathi
12. Santa Singh s/o Mit Singh, Jat of Asal.
13. Hardip Singh s/o Jawala Singh, Jat of Muthianwala.
14. Inder Singh s/o Harnam Singh, Jat of Muthianwala.
15. Teja Singh, Jat, of Muthiawala.
16. Must. Aso. a widow of Narain Singh Jat, of  
Muthiawala.

(e) Government servant-1, namely H.C. Sohan Lal of P. A. P.,  
Amritsar.

Members of public-13, namely :

1. Sohan Singh s/o Kala Singh, Mazhabi, of Jodhsingh-  
wala.
2. Makhan Singh, Mazhabi, of Jodhsingwala.
3. Gopal Singh s/o Sher Singh, Jat, of Sankhatra.
4. Gopal Singh s/o Sher Singh, Jat, of Mirke.
5. Nau Bahar s/o Khazana Sangharia of Gajjal.
6. Balwant s/o Nau Bahar of Gajjal.
7. Teja Singh s/o Auru Singh, now of Mastgarh P. S.  
Valtoha.
8. Udham Singh, s/o Narain Singh, Jat, of Katluhi Kalan.
9. Karnail Singh s/o Narain Singh Jat, of Wan.
10. Milkha Singh s/o Narain Singh, Jat, of Wan.

11. Makhan Singh s/o Labh Singh, Jat, of Khalra.
  12. Surain Singh s/o Arjan Singh, Jat, of Muthianwala, and
  13. Tara Singh s/o Natha Singh, Jat, of Mehdiipur.
- (f) Yes ; Financial help was given in the following cases :
1. F. C. Bhim Singh No. 1602, Rs. 150/-
  2. Widow of H. C. Sohan Lal No. 234, Rs. 500/-
  3. Grandmother of Gulzara Singh of Sankhatra Rs. 200/-
  4. Widow of Tara Singh of Mehdiipur Rs. 200/-
- (g) No.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The statement laid on the table indicates that financial help was given by the Government to Foot and Head Constable who were injured but no help was given to the people who also received injuries. May I know why this discrimination has been made ?

**Minister :** Do not items 3 and 4 cover his question ? They also relate to persons other than Government servants.

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#### HEALTH OF DR. LAL SINGH GILL, A COMMUNIST DETENUE

\*912. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

- (a) the present state of health of Dr. Lal Singh Gill of Dabwali Mandi, a Communist detenu ;
- (b) whether the Government has received a representation of his son ; if so, to what effect ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) His pulse rate is little higher than normal, being 90 per minute. His blood pressure is also a little lower than normal—115/75. However, there is nothing organic detectable in his heart. His present weight is 170 lbs. His teeth require scaling. He suffers from mild Trachoma for which he is being treated.

(b) Yes ; requesting for the release of his father on grounds of ill-health.

**Shri Prabodh Chandra :** May I know whether the son of Dr. Lal Singh sent an application to the Government for the grant of a family allowance ?

**Minister :** This does not arise out of the question.

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#### BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

\*914. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue be pleased to state :

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

- (a) whether the Government stand by the map of the Bhakra Dam Project given in the Post-War Scheme of the United Punjab ;
- (b) whether any changes or alterations have been made or proposed to be made in the map ;
- (c) when the Project is expected to be finalised (i) in case the height of the Dam is raised or (ii) otherwise ?

**The hon. Sardar Swaran Singh :** (a) No. The scope of the project has increased due to possibility of building a higher dam.

(b) It is proposed to include more areas now.

(c) First part—In about a year's time.

Second part—It has been decided to raise the dam.

#### EXPORT OF CATTLE FROM HARIANA DISTRICTS

\*915. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of milch cattle, calves and bullocks annually exported or taken away from the Haryana districts, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal to other provinces ;
- (b) the total number of each cattle exported since the partition ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to control the export of the cattle from these districts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :** (a) It is regretted that the required information is not readily available. Government consider that the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(b) Hissar	...	519
Rohtak	...	41,643
Gurgaon	...	2,029
Karnal	...	7,372

(c) Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the time by which the Government will be able to control the export of milch cattle ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The reply of the question has been given in the affirmative but no time limit can be given.

#### DISTRICT BOARD AMBALA.

\*1074. **Shri Ratan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :



- (a) whether it is a fact that the refugee teachers of the Ambala District Board have been given grades much lower than what they had in pre-partitioned Punjab ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether the provident fund money of the refugee teachers, District Board, Ambala, had been received by the Government from the West Punjab ; if not, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :**

(a) No. Only the women J. V. teachers of the District Board, Ambala, were given initial pay of the grade as it was not possible to verify their statements at the time of appointment. Now the District Board, Ambala, has since decided to give salaries to the teachers coming from local body schools in the West Punjab at the rates that they were being paid before partition.

(b) No. Every attempt is being made to persuade the West Punjab Government to complete the data pertaining to non-Muslim District Board teachers, who were employed in West Punjab, as without this data there can be no settlement of the claims of refugee teachers in the matter of provident fund.

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DISTRICT BOARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, MORNI, DISTRICT  
AMBALA.

**\*1075. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the public of Morni, District Ambala, deposited Rs. 1,000 with the District Board to share the expenditure of the additional room or rooms to be constructed to increase the accommodation capacity of the present building of the D. B. Middle School there ; if so, the date thereof ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the room or rooms have not been constructed so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the condition of most of the Ambala District Board School buildings has become very bad for want of proper repairs and supervision ;
- (d) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ;

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

- (e) whether Government is aware of the dangerously bad condition of the building of Veterinary Hospital, Naraingarh, Ambala ;
- (f) what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to save this building ?

**Parliamentary Secretary ( Shri Dev Raj Sethi ) :**

- (a) A sum of Rs. 836/- was deposited by the public of Morni with the District Board, Ambala, from July 1947 to November, 1948 for the construction of an additional room.
- (b) It has not been possible for the Board to provide its share towards the cost of the construction of the room for lack of funds.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The Board has been asked to provide adequate funds for repairs to school buildings during the year 1949-50.
- (e) Yes, white ants which are common in this ilaqa damage the wooden verandahs and the damaged material is replaced by the Board annually.
- (f) Board will replace the wooden verandahs with reinforced cement concrete as soon as cement becomes available.

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### COMPENSATION TO WORKERS WHO FOUGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTRY

**\*1130 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued a notification to the effect that the losses suffered by the Congress and the Nationalist workers in the Freedom Movement would be compensated ; if so, would he lay a copy thereof on the table of the House ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that compensation has been paid to any such worker ; if so the name of the person together with the amount paid to him ;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations to this effect including one from Sardar Harjap Singh, ex-M. L. A., Punjab ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

**The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** (a) A press communique containing the decisions of the East Punjab Government with regard to the restoration of property, movable and immovable, political pensions, and jagirs, etc., which were confiscated and refund of fines levied under the previous British regime in national movements or as a result of convictions in political cases was issued in August, 1948. A copy of it is placed on the table.

(b) No compensation has been paid to any such worker so far, as the cases are still under examination.

(c) Yes. A large number of representations have been received so far and are being considered. The case of S. Harjap Singh, ex-M. L. A, Punjab has been referred to the West Punjab Government for obtaining information on certain points.

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*Press Communique.*

A large number of representations were received by Government from time to time asking that people who had been convicted in cases as a result of participation in national movements and had suffered punishments should be compensated. After carefully considering the matter, East Punjab Government have arrived at the following decisions :—

“1. The proposal relating to the restoration of property, etc., in case of persons who had suffered during the national movements where possible, be accepted in principle. While details will have to be worked out carefully, the general principles stated below will be borne in mind :—

(a) only claims of persons, who had suffered confiscation of property, etc., during national movements after the 1st Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1913, shall be entertained ;

(b) “National movements” shall include Civil Disobedience, Akali and Babar Akali Movements, and such movements as Government may decide were “National Movements ;”

(c) where lands or landed properties, etc., had been confiscated and sold, only the sale proceeds of auctions could be restored, after deducting actual expenses of sale ; and

(d) restoration could only be made in favour of those, who had actually suffered or their direct descendants but not collaterals.

2. Civil pensions that had been confiscated could only be restored in favour of the pensioners themselves and not their descendants. The restoration will be from the date of the order and not with retrospective effect.

3. The question of political pensions, military pensions, including **Jangi Inams** was for the Dominion Government to decide.

4. Fines, where actually realised, could be refunded to the actual sufferers or their direct descendants after deducting expenses incurred in their recovery.

5. Any claim put up to Government should be accompanied by documentary evidence of confiscation, etc., and the amounts involved and each case will be decided on merits after considering documentary evidence that may be produced or may be available to the Provincial Government. It is obvious that any claims that could not be properly verified from records, would not be admitted.

6. The question of actual restoration of lands or properties situated in West Punjab did not arise but any persons from West Punjab, who had suffered confiscation of properties or pensions or fines during national movements could put up their claims to Government for their consideration."

Any representations should in the light of the above decisions be forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, East Punjab, Ellerslie, Simla-East, mentioning full particulars of cases, punishments, orders on appeal, of properties confiscated or fines imposed and recovered, etc. The representation should be accompanied by full documentary evidence that is available, as also an affidavit that the contents of the representation are true. It may be added that only those persons whose cases are covered by the decision referred above need send in their representations.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister tell me what points have been referred to the West Punjab Government ?

**Minister for Home and Revenue :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government received any representation from Sardar Harjap Singh, ex-M.L.A. to the effect that he was kept under detention while he was an M.L.A. and that he had received nothing from the Government during that period ?

**Minister :** That representation is not with me and it is, therefore, not possible for me to say anything one way or the other in regard to the contents of that representation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the hon. Minister in a position to give the House some idea as to the number of representations that are being considered by the Government ?

**Minister :** I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to my reply to part (a) of his question.

**Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will any allowance be given to the families of the martyrs of 1914-15 Conspiracy Case ?

**Minister :** They are covered by the notification.

#### URBAN RENT RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the Motion moved by the Minister for Finance "that the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once."

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** (Ambala Division, Landholders) : Sir, yesterday I was trying to point out the dangers of pinning down to very low rents by legislation. This practice has proved very harmful in the long run both from the interest of the people and the Government. The longest history behind this sort of legislation is that of France. After the World War I, the French Government tried to stabilise at the lowest minimum rents in Paris. At that time.....

**Mr. Speaker :** This is going beyond the Bill that is under consideration and which relates to Simla.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** I am trying to draw an analogy between Paris and Simla. It was thought quite reasonable by the then Government of France to fix up rents so as to benefit persons who had returned from war. It was decided that the position would be reviewed again in 1926 and when in 1926 the matter was placed before the French Assembly, the Government could not see their way to increase the rents that were fixed in 1918 for fear of criticism from the public. The result was that the question was deferred to a future date and the same thing continued to happen from year to year till the World War II came—there being no substantial relief excepting that of about 7½% up till 1939. After the war, the Government could not have the courage to increase the rents for fear of going out probably sooner than they actually did. The result of all this has been that there has been no building activity worth the name in Paris for the last 20 years nor have there been any substantial repairs to the buildings which are gradually crumbling down. The housing accommodation in Paris is, therefore, shrinking with the passage of time but on the other hand the population is increasing. It is well nigh impossible to secure housing accommodation in France these days. Government may be able to help the prospective tenants but that happens in a very few cases and the most popular method is that when somebody vacates a house or dies, another forcibly gets into it and



[Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish]

normally he is not ejected by the Government—again for fear of criticism. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that if our Government follow that policy, they will have to share the fate of the French Government.

Again, drawing an analogy between Paris and Simla, there were about a hundred thousand buildings in Paris in 1918 and now 84,000 have been left.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is persisting in irrelevancy.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** I will pull all the threads together to show that I am relevant. If the policy of keeping down rents at Simla to the lowest minimum is followed, Simla is definitely not going to have any more buildings as they did not have any more buildings in France after that legislation was passed. The result would be that a decade hence or even earlier, the number of buildings in Simla would be much less than it is now because the owners will no longer invest any money either in constructing new buildings or in repairing old ones. Even now there is scarcity of houses and after sometime the scarcity will be all the more acute and as a result of that the health standard of the people would be much lower than it exists today in cities and bigger towns. With your permission, Sir, I once again refer to the example of Paris where more than 80% of dwelling houses have no baths and more than 55% no W.C's and they have to go out of their houses for these requirements. If division, sub-division and further sub-division continue in houses in Simla we shall also have to face the same difficulty which is felt in Paris.

Then, Sir, the next important question is that with the increase of population and diminution of the housing accommodation, many social complications are bound to arise. Of course Sir, these complications are very much found in other countries of the world but we also have started seeing the signs of them. In places like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta it has actually been observed that some working class women have got to share the apartments with somebody, because they cannot get places independently and in exchange they have to undergo utter humiliation. If that sort of social complications were to take place here I know that Simla will not be able to put up with such social human indignities which the people may have to face. If the housing accommodation diminishes then, Sir, it is not only the people who are going to lose but the Government will also be put to a very big loss and inconvenience. We, Sir, at present have no permanent capital of our own and I do not see the signs of having one in the near future in spite of the assurances given by the different Ministers at different times. If by certain actions of the Government, building operations in Simla come to a close they will not be able to find living accommodation for their own personnel who have got to reside here essentially. The result would be that the already fast diminishing efficiency of the staff would come to utter zero. So it is in the interest of the Government itself that instead of taking legislation in hand that would discourage building activities or that would discourage keeping



in good condition the buildings that are already existing they should have taken steps to encourage building activities here and to see that whatever is existing here at present remains in good condition.

Now, Sir, this again may lead to very serious consequences later on. The Government today has no doubt done it in case of Simla. There can be agitation in Ambala, Jullundur, Amritsar, Ludhiana or for that matter in any other town of East Punjab and the people might say "Why should you reduce the rents in Simla only to the minimum and not here in other places as well". And I think that the argument will be feasible. People will say that if buildings can be kept in fairly good condition in Simla with the minimum rents why cannot they be kept like that in other towns in the plains which are cheaper and the Government will have to do that there also later on. If that were to happen building activities in whole of the province would be held up. So it is desirable that the Government should immediately see its way to make such necessary changes in the Bill that are fair to the building owning class so that they can co-operate with the Government, and the people who live here all the year round may find accommodation.

The landlords in Simla already have many hardships. What happens in certain cases is that a shop is let to X but that man does no real business; he gives that shop to Y or Z; being a clever man he saves himself from the clutches of law by keeping a very little share in the business. Apart from that little share in the business he realises, a big 'pugree' also. I need not in this House refer you to the big scandal that was going round in Simla last year when, Sir, a very important leader of this province got a shop allotted to himself and later on black marketed it to another big businessman. When, Sir, our leaders are doing such things what can we expect from other people? If these things are happening how is Government justified in encouraging these unsocial and unhealthy things. The Government would be failing in its duty if they do not put a proper check on these activities and see that whatever accommodation is available is given to other people on just and fair rents which may be such as existed before the war or they may be two or three times more than that amount. The duty of every Government is to see that justice is meted out to all classes of its subjects and this legislation certainly makes a distinction which no good Government would dare bring against its own subjects.

Sir, you may have already noticed that certain buildings on the way to Chota-Simla from Sanjauli are in a very bad condition and I can assure you that if this legislation is allowed to stand as it is, no repairs are going to be done to them and they are going to fall down in no time. I know that will be very big loss to the owners but it will not be a small loss to the Government itself when it is scratching its head all the time to find accommodation for its different categories of people that are living here.

Now I come to the next question. What Government would have to do if this legislation is allowed to get through? They will

[Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish]

have to do what the Government in France is doing—there they are nationalizing the housing accommodation. They may be able to succeed in their venture because they may get money from America or England but certainly we cannot indulge in that luxury at the present time when we find it difficult to rehabilitate our uprooted brothers and sisters for lack of enough funds. How is Government going to solve that problem? The problem will become more and more awkward and I put it to the Government to realize this fact before it is too late. If at a later stage they bring any legislation to increase the rents with a view to encourage building activities they will not be able to enforce it for the simple reason that the people would have got used to that sort of protection from the Government for a number of years and I would call it an unjust protection. But the people would not like to give that concession up and ultimately in that lies the seed of communism.

Now, Sir, if you try to abolish a certain class, you can go ahead with it but you must be prepared for the repercussions that are bound to take place in the wake of such a step. Today you abolish the class of landlords, tomorrow the man in the street will come down with the demand of doing away with the institution of shopkeepers. Naturally he will ask for the establishment of co-operative societies and the business will pass off from the hands of the shopkeepers and in the same manner things like this will be demanded in other walks of life. If that way lies Communism, then what justification has the Government got in pressing for this legislation? Yesterday after the adjournment of the House, I was keen to find out as to what led the Government to bring forward this measure because the Statement of Objects and Reasons gave no clear indication of the necessity for this legislation. I was made to understand that since they had to find out accommodation for their officers, necessity was felt for this measure. I think this is unfair. Because they have got to find accommodation for their officers, is no argument for keeping the fair rent of buildings in Simla as low as the basic rent. At least this thing should weigh with them that rent varies with the condition of the building. In this connection may I know if the Government has cared to find out the reaction of the common man of Simla? His reaction is very bitter. They are sceptic about the *bona fides* of the Government regarding this Bill. They think the real reason behind this measure is the direct or indirect interest in the tenants who are occupying a very large number of buildings.

**Mr. Speaker :** No motives are to be imputed.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** I am placing the views of the people of Simla before the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker:** But just now in this House it is the hon. Member who is giving expression to these views.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** No, Sir, they are not my views. It is the view of the Simla people which I am bringing to the notice of the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is better that the hon. Member kept these views to himself and refrained from expressing them as they tantamount to imputing motives.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Very well, Sir. Our friends want bigger houses and shops but don't like to pay the fair rent. The thing is that they wish to benefit their relatives and friends.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is again imputing motives. May I ask him not to do so further ?

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Well, Sir, if you don't permit me to go ahead, then I would just say one thing more and conclude my speech. Now, Sir, what about the housing accommodation that has got to be built in future ? The fear is lurking in the minds of the people that if new buildings are constructed, the rents will be regulated by the Government on the same basis on which they are being done for the older buildings. That apprehension is holding up any fresh building operations and that is doing incalculable harm.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is repetition. This argument has already been expressed by the hon. Member.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Well, Sir, if they insist upon rushing through this measure, they will come to a crash. The common man in the street says, "We have had enough of you, now you get out". And if I don't exaggerate, this is the sentiment that is uppermost in the mind of every man in the province.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is rather the wish of the hon. Member.

**Sardar Bachan Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural (*Punjabi*): Sir, if we read the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act along with this amending Bill, its section 4 would be as follows :—

(1) The Controller shall on application by the tenant or landlord of a building or rented land fix the fair rent for such building or rented land after holding such inquiry as the Controller thinks fit.

(2) In determining the fair rent under this section, the controller shall first fix a basic rent taking into consideration—

(a) the prevailing rates of rent in the locality for the same or similar accommodation in similar circumstances during the twelve months prior to the 1st Jan. 1939 ; and

(b) the rental value of such building or rented land if entered in property tax assessment register of the municipal, town or notified area committee, cantonment board, as the case may be, relating to the period mentioned in clause (a).

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (3) (4) and (5), the fair rent for any building in the urban area of Simla shall not exceed the basic rent.

Now if we read sub-sections (3), (4) and (5), we come to know that—

In fixing the fair rent of a residential building, the Controller may allow, if the basic rent—

- ( ) in the case of a building in existence before the 1st January, 1939.
- (a) does not exceed Rs. 25 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 8 1/3 per cent on basic rent ;
- (b) exceeds Rs. 25 per mensem but does not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 12 1/2 per cent on such basic rent ;
- (c) exceeds Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 25 per cent on such basic rent ;
- (ii) in the case of a building constructed on or after the 1st January, 1939—
- (a) does not exceed Rs. 25 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 25 per cent on such basic rent ;
- (b) exceeds Rs. 25 but does not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 37 1/2 per cent on such basic rent ;
- (c) exceeds Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase not exceeding 50 per cent on such basic rent and so on.....

In this way, Sir, sub-sections (3) (4) and (5) lay down the extent to which the fair rent can exceed the basic rent in the case of buildings in existence before the 1st January, 1939 as well as in the case of those which were built on or after the 1st January, 1939. Now, Sir, the object of this amending Bill is to lay down that so far as the buildings in Simla are concerned, this fair rent will in no case exceed the basic rent—even by a single pie. The meaning of this is obvious and that is that there will not be one law for the whole province on this subject. Simla will be governed by one law and the rest of the province by a different law. I have been thinking over this matter with a cool mind for a pretty long time but I have not been able to find any valid reason or justification for this discrimination between Simla and the towns in the plains, which are also in this province.

Sir, I would have admitted the necessity of this discrimination, if the restriction proposed in this Bill had been imposed in the case of those towns or localities, where refugees have been resettled. If it had been proposed that the fair rent of buildings in towns like Jullundur and Ludhiana, which had absorbed lakhs of refugees, shall in no case exceed the basic rent, there would have been justification for bringing such a measure before the House, since it would be in the interests of the refugees. It is strange that while our Government has not felt the necessity of imposing this restriction in those towns, it has brought forward an amending Bill to impose it on Simla, which is a non-refugee station and where refugees cannot live.

Now let us see why the Government felt the necessity of passing the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act. While bringing this measure before the House, it was stated on behalf of the Government that since the prices of building material had risen very high, it was considered proper that landlords should be allowed a reasonable increase on the basic rent. Moreover, the landlords were making insistent demand that it would be grossly iniquitous if they were asked to accept the old rents. The Government's plea was that keeping in view the difficulties of the landlords and that the prices of all essential commodities had risen



very high, there should be certain increase on the basic rent, though we were opposed to such a measure. But I fail to understand that if this principle is universally recognised in the whole of the province why should Simla be an exception. The reason perhaps might be that in the plains ordinary people live but Simla, being the hill station, is the abode of gods. There is a mention in the Vedas that gods live in the Himalayan mountains and it is due to this reason that a special provision has to be made in the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act with regard to the urban area of Simla. But may I presume that the so-called gods reside in the bungalows of Simla? It will not be wrong to say that the Government is persevering in its demand to seek exorbitant rents for the Government-owned buildings. When the Rent Restriction Act was passed, I received many letters from Ludhiana that the Government had weighed the scales against the landlords to afford relief to the tenants but the Act negated the relief intended to be afforded to the tenants of Municipal Committees and District Boards which continued to charge exorbitant rent from the public. It is a general complaint in every town that the Municipal Committees are charging high rents and the poor tenants cannot resist the landlords' demand. If the Act is so relaxed that the Municipal Committees can easily charge exorbitant rents then it is neither fair nor just to victimise the house-owners in Simla. If the Government wanted to make special provision with regard to urban area of Simla, it would have been fair and equitable that this principle should have been made applicable to the whole of the province. In my opinion the residents of Simla are all well-to-do people. When I have an occasion to go to the Mall Road or to the Ridge, I always find richer class of people moving about in fancy dresses. Their gay appearance and elaborate make-up show that they are the cream of the society.

**Mr. Speaker :** Such persons are only meant for putting up show on the Mall Road.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I am glad that these persons please the general public on the Mall Road. But I do not understand why the provisions in this Bill extend concession to this class of people who are not poor. The Bill, in fact, would give protection to the poorer section of the general public who cannot secure minimum accommodation on a reasonable rent. If you go to Ludhiana, you will notice, Sir, that the shortage of houses is acute. The worst conditions of congestion are seen there where eight or ten people are huddled up in a squalid room which is more or less a 'black hole'. In the year 1921 the population of Ludhiana was 46,000 and now it has increased to two lakhs. There is a need for immediate construction of the maximum number of houses in the province to put essential accommodation at the disposal of every citizen. It has not been possible to build houses expeditiously for non availability of building material. The four thousand newly built houses form the first fairly substantial contribution that the administration has made to relieve the housing shortage in the province. The situation in the plains imperatively demands that

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the rent should not exceed the basic rent but I do not understand the reasons under which Simla has been singled out for preferential treatment. The reason advanced by the Government is that Ordinance No. 1 has to be replaced by an Act. But may I ask if it is also necessary to extend the Rowlatt Act which was passed in the year 1919? There is absolutely no justification for making a special provision in the Rent Restriction Act with regard to the urban area of Simla. Perhaps the plea of the Government might be that the offices of the Government are located in Simla and the Government want to help that class of people who are in Government employment. But in Ludhiana the Government requisition houses for its officers without caring for the interests of the landlords. There was no need for bringing this amending Bill if the houses were requisitioned here also. The highly placed officers of the Government are generally in the habit of requisitioning houses for their near relatives.

**Mr. Speaker :** No reflection on anybody please.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I am talking in general.

**Mr. Speaker :** Generality becomes particularity.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I was submitting that this Bill has been introduced to benefit a particular class of people. Those who have to administer justice should hold the scales even. There should not be one criterion for a certain class of people and a different one for others. If a person entrusted with the task of administering justice goes on favouring his own people, he is sure to lose his position before long. For some time past the mentality of misusing power by those who possess it, has persisted in our country. Fixing the basic rent of buildings in Simla as their fair rent while allowing its enhancement at other places is a clear proof of the improper use of power. The same measure should be applied to all places and no discrimination should be made in favour of anybody. I shall request the Government to reconsider the matter and to try to foresee the effect of this Bill on the general public.

If the residents of Simla have to pay eight per cent or ten per cent or even twenty-five per cent more rent, they are in a position to do so. Government servants, for whose benefit this Bill has been brought forward, are in receipt of hill allowance. This is in addition to other allowances admissible to all Government servants. Hill allowance is intended to cover the high rents and dearness in the price of other articles which usually prevail at hill stations. If these persons are saved from incurring any additional expenditure, for which they are paid hill allowance, this will become unnecessary. I, however, feel that hill allowance is essential. Articles of daily need are dearer at hill stations. The same is the case with house-rent.

I also wish to point out that the Bill will not help the poor people. They will not be able to get houses at basic rent. Poor



people are always asked to vacate houses for those who are prepared to pay high rents. Influential persons have all the privileges and by paying 'pugree-money' they can get the houses occupied by poor persons vacated for their own use. I wish the Government could convince at least the Members of this House about the utility of this Bill.

Yesterday when an hon. Minister moved a Bill, he was congratulated from all sides of the House. When hon. Minister for Labour and Excise brought forward a Bill for imposing certain restrictions on the consumption of liquor, he got unanimous support from the House. There could not be two opinions about that subject. This Bill, however, has not only been criticised in this House but the public also is complaining about it. It is generally being asked as to who are the landlords and who are the tenants in Simla. Here, either the Government itself or their employees are the tenants. As a member of the Party and a well-wisher of the Government, I am anxious that the prestige and honour of the Government should not suffer. I desire that the life of this Government should be as long as possible and it should earn the greatest amount of respect from the masses. For these reasons, I desire that the Government should carefully examine the implications of this Bill and should not be in a hurry to pass it. I am unable to understand the necessity of rushing through this measure and coming to the House with a motion that it be taken into consideration at once.

We, the Members of this House, are paid three hundred rupees per mensem as compensatory allowance. We have to work for only a month or two in the whole year and for the rest of the time we are not required to do anything. When the Government spends so much on us, it is our duty to ensure that every measure is passed after due deliberation. If a measure is adopted hurriedly, it has to be amended again and again. Certain defects and lacunae are afterwards discovered and these have to be rectified by amending Bills.

One of the clauses in the proposed Bill will have far-reaching effects on the people. I shall request the hon. Minister-in-Charge to reconsider the whole question. There should be no distinction between the rich and the poor or between one class and another in the eyes of law.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is repetition.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** I shall request the hon. Minister-in-Charge to withdraw this Bill. The Government should not try to favour a particular class of people as it will be an injustice and will create an unhealthy tradition.

Sir, I wish to know from the Government if they have received any representations from the public of Simla or other towns in this connection. I know, and all hon. Members know, that a regular struggle has been going on between the rent payers and the house proprietors for a very long time. The rent payers say that the rents of houses should not be raised whereas the landlords insist on

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their increase. No amicable settlement appears possible between the parties. In my opinion, the Government of India is proceeding on the right lines. It was only day before yesterday that I read in papers about the fixation of cotton prices and the rapprochement brought about between the capital and labour by the Government of India.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is not relevant.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I wished to point out that the Government of India were very efficient in fixing prices and rents but the same could not be said of our Government. As cotton now costs more because it is imported from outside and labour has also to be paid higher wages than before, they have increased the prices of cloth by 5 or 6 per cent. This increase appears so reasonable that nobody is complaining about it. Now take the case of our Government. It seems as if in the opinion of this Government a house that may be built now in the year of grace 1949 at Simla, will cost the same amount as it would have done in 1939 or 1940. In case this be not what the Government thinks why should the basic rent of a new house be the same as that of an old one? We are certainly not justified in using the same yardstick in both cases.

Sir, I wish to submit that the position of the Government is very different from that of the individual hon. Members. Some hon. Members represent the kisans, some the zaminders and some the labourers, but the Government is a common institution of all of them. The Government has to safeguard the interests of all citizens of the province. If this be so, I see no reason why the house proprietors and landlords of Simla should be given a treatment different from that given to the house proprietors of other towns. They should not be victimised. As a matter of fact, Government should inquire into this matter and fix rents keeping in view the cost which is invested in building new houses these days. But if this Bill is passed without caring for the interests of the house owners, I am sure it will prove disastrous for the province which is already suffering from a very acute and unprecedented shortage of housing accommodation. It will become impossible to find residential accommodation at Simla and we shall have to thank the Government, and through the Government ourselves, for that.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is again repetition.

**Sardar Bachan Singh .** In the circumstances which prevail at present Government should have given facilities to the people by way of supplying cement and other material for building houses but nothing of this kind appears to have happened.

Sir, the House made history yesterday and I think that our Government should take a tip from such happenings. My hon. Friends, Shri Behari Lal Chanana and Sardar Ujjal Singh, expressed their dissatisfaction with the Factories Bill and the House, realising that the Bill was not calculated to prove useful for the industries of the province, agreed to the circulation motion moved by my

hon. Friend, Chaudhari Suraj Mal, in spite of the fact that the hon. Minister for Finance insisted that it should be considered at once. After such an experience, Government should know that it is not possible for them to ignore the opinions and feelings of the hon. Members of this House. And I tell them that the House, does not approve of this measure. I, therefore, request that the motion for consideration at once, should be withdrawn and the Bill may be referred to the Select Committee or circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. But if the Government is obstinate and turns a deaf ear to our advice, I have no doubt that the Government of the Province and we all may have to face an evil day.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the hon. Member is repeating several things over and over again. A speech should not be an infliction on the House. It should, on the other hand, give arguments and information.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether hon. Minister for Finance is competent to decide such a thing or the Chair ?

**Mr. Speaker :** He has only drawn my attention.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I was submitting that we have a popular Government and that we are the representatives of the people.

**Minister for Finance :** This is Legislative Assembly and not a public house.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Minister should not interrupt.

**Minister for Finance :** I am not interrupting, Sir.

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I know that some people are in an awkward position and I realize that very well. If I were in their position, perhaps I would have felt like them. But, fortunately or unfortunately, my position is different as I am not subject to any restrictions from any quarter. I know it is due to some restrictions of circumstances that make them act contrary to their professions. It is a pity that their words and deeds have gone poles asunder. However, I would respectfully tell them that consistency is one of the noblest qualities of man. Now, coming to the point at issue, I am to say that we have been returned to this House with the help of our poor voters and we should do our utmost to voice their grievances.

**Minister for Finance :** What an argument for the defence of the landlords !

**Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I wish to point out that the Bill which is before the House is defective. It is not only defective, it is partial and its partiality does not do us any credit. The measure for Simla should be similar to the one that is enforced in other towns. We should have a uniform principle throughout the

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province. If we decide to fix a basic rent the decision should be applicable to the whole of the East Punjab and in case it is not workable rents should also be raised at Simla.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) : Sir, you have called upon me to make a speech, but I find that there are yet several hon. Members who want to speak on this Bill. I think you may give them an opportunity before I speak.

**Mr. Speaker** : But I have called upon the hon. Minister for Finance to speak.

**Minister for Finance** : You may allow others first and I will speak afterwards. I have to give reply to the arguments advanced by them.

**Mr. Speaker** : No arguments with me please. Question is :

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance** : You did not give me any choice. I thought you were going to call upon other hon. Members to speak and then allow me to make a reply. But you straightaway put the motion to the House.

**Mr. Speaker** : Nothing of the sort. The hon. Minister kept sitting even after I had called upon him to make a speech. Now the House will proceed with the consideration of the Bill clause by clause.

#### CLAUSE 2

**Mr. Speaker** : Question is :

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill

**Sardar Sajjan Singh** : (Patti Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I said in my speech at the time of discussion on the 4 P.M. Budget that our Government was carrying on its business in a way which reminded me of a Punjabi proverb, viz.,

ਚੋਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਤੇ ਡਾਂਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਗਜ਼ !

“ चोरां दे कपड़े ते डांगां दे गज ”

It means that the looted cloth is measured by the yardsticks of poles. But our Government has gone farther still ; it has adopted furlongs as its yardsticks. By bringing this Bill before the House, the Government has passed all limits. In fact, it should do deeds which may benefit the people of the province. A person or a society is judged by the deeds that he or it does. The Government which is not based on justice cannot be called a popular Government. On the other hand, such a Government becomes unpopular. It is said that justice is blind. This has often been said here by the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue. But the Government has not acted in an impartial way by bringing this Bill before the House.

If it wants to enforce a measure in Simla, why should not the same be enforced in other cities such as Amritsar, Jullundur, etc.



The only difference between those cities and Simla is that whereas Simla is inhabited by His Excellency the Governor the other cities are inhabited by the commoners.

**Mr. Speaker :** No reflection, please. I think the hon. Member should not bring in anybody's name.

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** The Government should not act in a way which smacks of partial and discriminatory treatment. It has actually acted like that by bringing this Bill before the House.

These things will bring to it bad name instead of good reputation and bad name ultimately leads to death. If our Government is bent upon bringing upon itself its own ruin it may gladly bring forth such Bills. But in case it wants to continue to be in power, it will have to be just and impartial. The balance of justice should be wielded in a fair and impartial manner without showing preference towards any side. Otherwise these misdeeds will produce disastrous consequences for the Government and it will lose all favour with the people. It does not behove the Government, which represents the Congress Party and professes to follow the high ideals of Mahatma Gandhi to act in such a partial way. By bringing such Bills before the House, the Government is throwing all canons of justice to the winds. It is in its own interests that the whole of the province should be treated alike.

**Mr. Speaker :** This argument has been expressed by the previous Members also who spoke on the subject. (*Interruptions*)

**Sardar Sajjan Singh :** May I seek the protection of the Chair against the interruptions of the hon. Minister for Finance, who is feeling so much annoyed ? In the end, Sir, I again submit that, if our Government wants to keep up the good name of the Congress among the people, it should not bring forth such Bills. But if it insists on carrying on its policy of partiality and discrimination, it is bound to become unpopular.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the House, in cooler moments, will regret the speeches that have been made on its floor by the hon. Members like Sardar Sajjan Singh. These speeches have been made under the influence of certain extraneous factors which have nothing to do with the Bill under consideration. These hon. Members who are the representatives of the people have unnecessarily tried to bring the name of Congress into their speeches.

These persons, who claimed to be of socialist views and friends of the poor and who always stood for the uplift of the downtrodden, have given expression to such ideas as present them in their true colours. I am surprised at their attitude in this matter and I am also sorry that they have opposed this Bill which affords protection to the poor tenants. This attitude of theirs appears to be influenced by some extraneous circumstances which unfortunately mar today's atmosphere.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is imputing motives. May I ask the hon. Minister not to cast personal reflections ?

**Minister for Finance :** I am not making any insinuations. I am only arguing.

**Mr. Speaker :** No arguments with the Chair please.

**Minister for Finance :** I am arguing with you because I think there is scope for argument. You have been pleased to allow other hon. Members to indulge in repetition. I have to reply to every argument advanced by them. I think the Chair will be good enough to see the delicacy of the situation.

**Mr. Speaker :** There is no delicacy of the situation for the Chair. The hon. Minister should now proceed.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, I do not want to give a long lecture because it will only serve their purpose. (*Interruptions*)

**Mr. Speaker :** No interruptions, please.

**Minister for Finance :** I do not mind the interruptions but the hon. Members should know that it is not expedient and proper to set aside certain conventions of the House. They ought to be observed irrespective of the party in power.

Sir, I wish to point out that many irrelevant things have been said during the course of discussion on this Bill. For instance, an analogy has been drawn between Simla and Paris although the hon. Member may never have been to Paris to see the conditions prevailing there. There is one question, however, to which I must give a reply. It has been asked as to why we have discriminated between Simla and other cities of the province in the matter of rents. My hon. Friend who put this question is at present busy in the lobby. But I must say that when such a vehement opposition is put in the way of reduction of rents even in such a dear station as Simla, I wonder how they can claim to be friends of the poor. In Simla, thousands of poor clerks and other people can hardly make their both ends meet with the meagre salaries that they get. They cannot properly educate their children. They cannot afford to provide medical aid to their families in case of illness. Congress should ameliorate the condition of this class. It is an organisation for the good of the people at large and it aims at creating a classless society, wherein the poor may not go without the necessities of life. In fact, the landlords have increased the rents. So the tenants are hard pressed. Congress being an organisation for the benefit of the downtrodden must help them. This legislation has been introduced with the same object in view. The hon. Members are the representatives of the people, but I am sorry to note that instead of working for their interests they are indulging in party squabbles.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is speaking on the Bill or is delivering a lecture on party conduct. For the last so many minutes, he is haranguing on that point.



**Mr. Speaker :** He is only trying to reply to the points raised by the hon. Member who spoke before him.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, it is my submission that the hon. Members should always consider the point of view of the Government on such matters. In this particular case, on a representation being made from the Tenants' Association, Simla, and on hearing the facts they placed before us, an inquiry was held and it was found that the tenants were right in what they said. In 1938, the rents in Simla were higher than they were even afterwards. Such a situation exists in no other city of East Punjab. So we accepted whatever the tenants said. But somehow or other this fact remained unmentioned. It would have been better if a mention to it had been made in the Bill. So it is clear that everything has been done for the benefit of the poor. Congress stands for the poor and the downtrodden.

#### CLAUSE 2

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill

*The motion was carried.*

#### CLAUSE 1

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried*

#### TITLE

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt):  
I beg to move :

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be passed

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I had no mind to speak on the Bill now before the House. After hearing the speech of the hon. Finance Minister I thought that I too should make a few observations. While hearing him speak on the proposed Bill, I was reminded of the poet who has said the following lines :—

जो बात की खुदा की कसम लाजवाब की ।

नो याद बी धुडा बी बसम लानदाब बी ।

(Laughter)

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

The hon. Finance Minister should not be unmindful of the fact that he also happens to be a refugee from West Punjab. Had Simla not been declared a non-refugee town, then of course, there would have been some justification for the Government in bringing in such a measure.

**Minister for Finance :** You also say peculiar things.

**Shrimati Sita Devi :** I am not speaking about the capitalists but I am voicing the feelings of the poor. Instead of making a special provision with regard to the urban areas of Simla, our Government would have done a great service to the poor people by making such a provision in the amending Bill for all the urban areas in the province. I may assure the House in general and the hon. Finance Minister in particular that the poor people and the refugees will not be benefited by this proposed amending Bill. Government have not paid any heed towards the inconveniences experienced by the refugee tenants. It will not be out of place to mention here that the local residents of East Punjab have enhanced the rent of their houses enormously, so much so that a landlord who was receiving Rs. 5/- per month previously is now-a-days charging rent for the same portion of his house at the rate of Rs. 50/- per month. The hon. Finance Minister who himself is a refugee from West Punjab should have thought about those poor people in the plains who have been paying house rents at very abnormal rates. I am really constrained to remark that he has not thought about those poor refugees. Sir, I hope you will excuse me when I say that the hon. Minister knows it full well how far our Government is a popular Government. In fact the whole world knows it. The hon. Ministers are living in Simla and they are not aware of the conditions under which the poor people are living in the plains. They have brought this Bill before this House only to please the rich people living in Simla. I would suggest the hon. Finance Minister, the mover of this Bill, to move down and see for himself how people are living in the plains. It seems that the rich people of Simla have met the hon. Minister in a deputation and have asked for such concessions. Let the hon. Minister take the trouble of moving down to Jullundur, Ludhiana and other towns and there he will have to receive many deputations. If he has received one deputation in Simla, and that too from amongst the rich people, I am sure he will receive as many as hundreds of deputations of the teeming millions in the urban areas in the plains. What I wish to point out is that the provision should be made for all the places in the East Punjab in this Bill. This Bill has been brought forward to benefit the high officials living in Simla. There is no doubt about it that poor clerks also live in this temporary capital of our province, but we already know how far this Bill is going to benefit them. It will not be out of place to mention here that here in Simla most of the houses are already lying vacant. It is not possible to get a house here in Simla without the recommendation of some hon. Minister. Instances in this connection are not wanting. A lady who was in search of a house wanted me to approach the hon. Minister for getting a house for her. She wanted some sort of recommendation from

the hon. Minister as she told me that it was humanly impossible to get a house without the recommendation of the hon. Minister. May I know from the hon. Minister if only poor people are living in Simla while rich and capitalists are living in the plains? This Bill is not meant to help the poor class of people but only a class of persons who are not poor simply because they are living in Simla. It is also not meant for poor clerks but for high officials of the Government. I am really constrained to remark that the hon. Ministers who live in decent bungalows in pomp and show and who enjoy rides in cars, and who also happen to earn an income of four to five thousand rupees per month, do not know anything about a poor person earning annas eight or a rupee a day. They do not know the conditions under which poor people are living in the plains. Under the circumstances, I feel that there is no necessity of bringing forward such a measure. I quite remember how yesterday the hon. Minister for Home and Revenue pointed out in the course of his speech that the measure before the House was really a very beneficial one and that no time should be wasted in delaying its passage. He further said that much delay would be caused in referring the Bill to the Select Committee and the sooner it was passed the better would it be for the province. I really fail to understand as to why they did not think over the matter when the original Bill was brought into the House. There seems to be no justification for bringing in the proposed amending Bill. If they wanted to oblige some rich people of Simla, they could have done so when the original Bill was brought forward into this House. However, I cannot do without saying that they have brought forward the proposed amending Bill simply to please the rich people of Simla. The hon. Minister, who claims himself to be of socialistic views, has brought forward this amending Bill only to please certain parties. Last but not the least, by bringing forward this Bill into the House, he wants to gain the goodwill of the Government.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Bill with all the emphasis at my command.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** (Ambala Division Landholders): Sir, it has become necessary for me to speak on the Bill at this stage because the hon. Minister has given certain arguments in favour of the Bill which . . . . .

**Mr. Speaker** : I did not interrupt the hon. Lady Member during her speech for one reason or the other, but I want to tell the hon. Member that only the principle of the Bill can be discussed at this stage. He should not try to reply to the arguments that have been advanced by the hon. Minister nor should he try to repeat the arguments that he has already given about the details of the Bill.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish** : Sir, one of the principles underlying the Bill is that the Government is committed to work for the good of every person, but this Bill creates distinction between the treatment to be given to that part of the population which resides in Simla. The hon. Minister wants to have the rents here which prevailed in 1938. He is welcome to have them but I may tell the hon. Minister that in 1938 the Congress stand was that

[Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish]

the Premiers and Ministers were not to draw more than Rs. 500 as monthly salary but what do we see today? They are drawing Rs. 1,500 . . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not discuss that ; it is not relevant to the motion under discussion.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** I am just giving an example.

**Mr Speaker :** You have already given so many examples not of India but of Paris also.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** My point is that if the salaries can become four-fold, why cannot the Government accept the same principle in this case and increase the rent in the same proportion? Another principle has been accepted by the Government by allowing Dearness Allowance to its servants. The payment of Dearness Allowance presupposes the payment of higher rent to the landlords and it also accepts that the prices of every thing have gone up, but if the Government wants to bring the rents in Simla to the level of 1938, they would be well advised to reduce the Dearness Allowance in the same proportion, the reason being that because the Government servant does not have to pay now the enhanced rate of rent to the landlord he should not get anything more from the Government.

Now, Sir, another principle that has been taken into consideration, by him is that the rents in 1938 were the minimum in Simla. I disagree with him on this point for the reason that in 1938 people were expecting a world wide conflict which actually came in 1939 and they were trying to establish and consolidate themselves at as many places as possible and in as many businesses as possible, therefore there was a greater demand for all types of accommodation all over the province. I challenge the hon. Minister to collect the figures of rent for a number of years and he will find that the principle on which he bases his Bill is not correct.

It has been pointed out by the hon. Lady Member that the underlying idea behind this Bill is to keep the population of Simla which mostly comprises of educated people quiet. It, in a way, tells them to be satisfied by this small bribe . . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to use such words.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Sir, I was saying that I quite agree with my sister on this point. With these words I resume my seat.

**Minister for Finance** (The hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt): Sir, I want to say a word in reply. I have very little time to reply to the stale and old arguments advanced by Shrimati Sita Devi and the hon. Member who represents the Landholders' Constituency. He has stated that . . . .

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Sir, is he speaking on the principles underlying this Bill? (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Please let the hon. Minister proceed.

**Minister for Finance :** Sir, he has made a statement that the rents in 1938 were higher than the rents in succeeding years. I wonder how dare he make an absolutely incorrect statement on the floor of the House.

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** I said 'preceding' and not 'succeeding'.

**Minister for Finance :** On the representation of the Rent Payers' Association Government made a thorough enquiry. . . . .

**Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish :** Why don't you place it before the House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not interrupt.

**Minister for Finance :** I can quite understand his misplaced youth. Sir, I was saying that after a thorough enquiry Government came to the conclusion that the rents prevailing in 1938 were the most suitable to be taken as the basis. The Tenants' Association was also satisfied. I have nothing more to say.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

#### PROROGATION

**Mr. Speaker :** I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has by his orders prorogued the Assembly. The Assembly stands prorogued accordingly.

Chief Reporter  
Punjab Vidhan Sabha  
Chandigarh





Chief Reporter  
Punjab Vidhan Sabha  
Chandigarh

B-15182

